

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGES.

At the Union Church, Victoria, Hongkong, on the 21st March, by the Rev. G. J. Williams, KATH G. MACALLAN, fourth daughter of James Macallan, Esq., Aberdeen (Scotland), to Capt. WM. MACKAY, of the steamer *Proponia*, son of Capt. Mackay, Harbour Master, Fra-erburgh.

On the 21st March, at the Peak Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., JAMES MIDDLETON BECK, of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company's Service, to ALICE CAROLINE, only daughter of Bruce SHEPHERD, Hongkong Civil Service.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 17th February arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro* on the 20th March (31 days); the Canadian mail of the 27th February arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 21st March, (23 days); and the German Mail of the 7th February arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Weimar*, on the 23rd March (44 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.M.S. *Victorious* will leave Hongkong on the 26th inst., homeward bound.

The *Echo de Chine* gives a rumour that the plague has made its appearance at Peking.

The death of Katetsu Ku, the famous Formosan bandit who gave the authorities so much trouble, is announced.

Strict quarantine precautions have been taken at Kwang-chau-wan, with the consequence that the receipt of mails there is considerably delayed.

Major Sir Horace W. Macmahon left Hongkong for Colombo on the 21st inst. by the German mailboat *Stuttgart*. He is proceeding to South Africa.

It is understood, says *The Kobe Chronicle*, that the *Barfleur* is to be one of the very few foreign war vessels permitted to witness the approaching Japanese naval manoeuvres, which will be on a scale never before undertaken by Japan.

It is reported from Manila that Admiral Watson will be relieved from the command of the United States squadron in the Philippines by Admiral George C. Remey, who leaves San Francisco on the 31st of this month. Admiral Watson will assume command of the United States squadron in China and Japan.

The *Straits Times* says that President McKinley, believing the war in the Philippines to be ended, will shortly withdraw half the troops operating there. In view, however, of our Manila Correspondent's recent letter we should think the step will not be taken at once. There are still too many discordant elements at work in the islands.

General regret will be felt at the news that Lieut. David J. Keawick, of the 12th Lancers, the second son of Mr. Wm. Keawick, M.P., of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., was killed in the recent fighting in the Free State, at the age of 24, having had several narrow escapes previously. His elder brother, Mr. Henry Keawick, is now on his way to South Africa.

It is stated, says *The Straits Times*, that Mr. Treacher, Resident of Perak, will not return to the East, and that Mr. Redger, at present Acting-Resident in Perak, will act as Resident-General when Sir Frank Swettenham goes on leave, which the latter is expected to do very soon. Obviously, as their correspondent says, if Mr. Treacher resigns the service, there will be much movement among the Malay States officials.

Work is being pushed vigorously on the Belgian (Peking-Hankow) Railway. About seven miles from Hankow, several thousand men are at work. Rails are laid, and two Belgian locomotives are running to and fro, pulling the flat cars used by the workmen. A third locomotive is being set up. Nearer the city, work has not progressed so far. Heaps of stone on the flat plain behind the city indicate the general course of the tracks, but there is nothing to make one hope that the traffic can begin soon.

The desired extension of the foreign settlement at Shanghai, the negotiations about which have been concluded in accordance with the desires of the Council, includes the Railway Station and the new Rifle Range, as well as the large amount of property in the district which has been bought by foreigners, but for which hitherto it has been impossible to get foreign title deeds. When this district comes under the control of the Municipal Council, is lighted and policed, and proper titles obtainable, it will become one of the favourite country residences districts in Shanghai. It is within easy reach of the business centres, and be easily rendered a splendid suburb.

The Imperial Decree which we publish on another page was not, it appears, meant for the public, but the Governors of the provinces to which the unfortunate Hanlins belonged. It was inadvertently telegraphed from Peking, says the *North China Daily News*, with the result that the real sentences were known. The Grand Council, in causing the arrest of the five Hanlins, simply ordered the Board of Punishments to send those in Peking to their native provinces where, it was stated, the local authorities put them under strict surveillance. But on the other hand, the decree of the 9th was despatched as a "secret" decree to the Governors themselves that they might know what to do with their prisoners. Investigation is now being made at Peking to ascertain who revealed the arrangement and sent the secret decree to Shanghai to be published. It is to be hoped that investigation will be in vain.

Baron Nakajima, and Messrs. Takenouchi, Oye and Omiwa, promoters of the Seoul-Fusan railway, accompanied by twenty-four engineers and experts, left Kobe for Corea on the 9th inst. by the *Hige-Maru*. The party, says *The Japan Gazette*, will first proceed to Seoul and, after having obtained the permission of the Government, will commence a survey of the proposed railway route. The most difficult part for the construction of railway is between Osan and Reisan, a distance of 200 miles. The districts are mountainous, and moreover there is a river called the Nak-dong, the bridging of which will be a gigantic and difficult piece of engineering. Usually the river is dry but in case of heavy rains it overflows its banks, inundating the neighbouring country. The efforts of the surveyors will mostly be directed to making a project for the bridging of this river, and the survey must be finished before July, when the rainy weather sets in. The promoters of the railway propose to achieve their object by obtaining Government support in the next session of the Diet, by means of accurate estimates as to the cost of the undertaking, etc., in the collection of which they are now about to engage. It may be added that the promoters have decided upon the adoption of a broad gauge line.

Captain Morita, a military attaché in the Japanese Legation, who has been travelling in Manchuria since September last, returned to Peking recently, after completing an inspection of Kirin, the Amur river and Liaoyang. He reports that work on the railway in Manchuria by the Russians was suspended in the winter time. The line was already finished in parts, but the work was done very carelessly, and travelling on the line in some parts was dangerous in the extreme. He had travelled by the East China Railway, which was already completed from Yingking (Newchwang) to Port Arthur. The rails were laid and materials were being daily transported, but the line has not been opened for passenger or goods traffic. Captain Morita was told by Russians that the line would be opened to the public from Port Arthur to Fengtien (Moukden) by way of Newchwang and Haiching, in eighteen months. A section of the line has been laid temporarily, but travelling on it was extremely dangerous, owing to the steepness of the gradients, which in some cases were followed by sharp curves. One section was finished, and it was somewhat stronger and better, but Captain Morita comes to the conclusion that the line on the whole is badly constructed and will not compare with the lines in Japan.

CANAL SCHEMES AND BRITISH TRADE.

(Daily Press, 17th March.)

The Treaty concluded with the United States, in abrogation of the CLAYTON-BULWYN Convention, is one which will commend itself to most intelligent Englishmen. If, on the one hand, it withdrew the claim of England to interfere actively in the construction, on the other it provides that her interests shall be carefully guarded, and that the Canal shall at all times be open to her ships, naval and merchant, without favour or discrimination. The Government of the United States has always declared this to be its policy with regard to the Canal. It has now formally ratified this policy by making it the subject of a solemn convention, taking the international convention regarding the Suez Canal as the model of the new treaty. That convention has come to be acknowledged as a part of the common code of international law regulating the intercourse of civilised nations, and leaves little room open for dispute, so that the question under what national flag the work may come to be actually carried out becomes a matter of merely private interest. That the people of the United States should desire that a Canal, whose most marked utility is that it will connect more closely than before the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the great Republic, is natural enough and indeed is a subject of laudable ambition; on the other hand, there was no great desire on the part of British capitalists to invest in so distant and difficult an undertaking, while the possession of the Canal could not but lead to international jealousy. From every consideration it was politic that the construction should be left in hands of the most interested nation, and as that nation was connected with our own by the ties, not only of blood, but also of a general community of interest, the Government, with the approval of the nation at large, as soon as the stage for the commencement of the work was imminent, declared its intention of not permitting the clauses of the existing treaty to stand in the way of construction. This friendly feeling was doubtless strengthened by the experience of both nations with regard to international control of joint undertakings. The joint administration of Samoa, for instance, was not an experiment such as the United States would care to try their hand at a second time, nor was the Dual Control in Egypt such an institution as England would wish to support again. On the whole Lord SALISBURY's Government may well be congratulated on the measure. But even more than this; there is, we believe, a general desire on the part of the nation that the Canal should be taken in hand at as early a date as possible, and the United States were certainly in a better momentary position to do this than England. We have spoken so recently on the probable effect of the scheme on British trade that we need scarcely repeat our words on the subject; but on the whole we believe that it will be an advantage for British trade, and if it introduce in certain lines an increased competition, will in others prove an incentive to our powers of production. It is not likely to provoke such a revolution in the commerce of the world as followed the opening of the Suez Canal, and yet for all that it will profoundly improve the position of many of our Pacific dependencies, as well as bring the West Indies into the direct line of the world's commerce. From all these points of view the Canal cannot but be advantageous to us as a nation, and it becomes a matter of importance that it should be in friendly hands. At all events, even when

we are most opposed, there is common element and a better understanding of our differences between ourselves and the people of the States than prevail between us and any other nation. It is well to remember that it is scarcely more than thirty years since the first line of steamers crossed the Pacific Ocean; even now the lines of steamers are comparatively few compared with those of the other oceans; but with the opening of the Canal another phase of things is certain to arise. The Pacific is not wanting in fertile islands, whose productions have hitherto failed to reach the markets of the world, because of the difficulty of communication. All this must undergo a change with the opening of the new passage, and as Great Britain already holds in Australia, New Zealand and the Fijis the most important and most productive of the Pacific lands, there is already an assured opening for her enterprise. But the Trans-Isthmian Canal, it is important to recall, is not the only, nor perhaps the most important, enterprise at the moment occupying the attention of the States, in which English interests are largely concerned. By her admirable system of ship-canal, Canada has hitherto succeeded in diverting to her own ports the lion's share of the enormous traffic of the Great Lakes; how great is this traffic may be guessed, when we look at the statement that during the last year no less than 20,000 vessels of a capacity of 22,000,000 tons passed through the Sault Ste Marie Canal from Lake Superior to Huron. Seventy-five years ago the United States constructed the Erie Canal, leading from Albany on the Hudson to Buffalo on Lake Erie; and for many years this sufficed for the traffic: but with the growth of steam-navigation, and the increased advantages offered by Canada, the stream of traffic eventually selected the Dominion route. The result of this has been that New York has found its export trade seriously hampered; the Canadian Government has provided a through water-way from Superior to Montreal with a minimum depth of 14 feet, while the Erie Canal only affords passage to ordinary barges. Governor ROOSEVELT, of New York, one of the ablest American statesmen of the day, has taken the matter in hand, and is promoting the construction of a deep-water canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson. The scheme is a formidable one—little if anything inferior to the Trans-Isthmian project; but in the present extension temper of the State is almost certain to be carried. The distance to be traversed is about 360 miles, and the differences in level are serious, amounting in the present canal to over 600 feet; and the estimated cost is put down at no less than 60,000,000 dollars. The promoters openly state that their object is, not only to make a shorter route from the Lakes to the sea, but to make it entirely through American territory and eventually to turn into American routes and American boats, the vast trade of the Lakes, which now seeks its ocean outlet by way of the St. Lawrence. It is not to be denied that these intentions are serious, and threaten boldly our maritime supremacy. Fortunately trade begets trade, and if we lose on one hand, there will be doubtless corresponding advantages to be gained on the other, if we face the inevitable in a proper spirit.

The Japanese Press state that at the request of Korea the Japanese Government has agreed to adopt measures to avoid the serious inconveniences brought about by the present condition of the ginseng trade. It is now believed that the sale of the valuable herb will be made a Government monopoly.

BELLING THE DOWAGER.

(Daily Press, 21st March.)

THE failure of her long contemplated coup of the New Year has not improved the temper of the Dowager TZE HSI, and a condition which may be best described as a reign of terror prevails through the Empire. Seen far above the ignoble crowd of paralysed satellites who form her ministers, the figure of the woman TZE HSI stands out as that of some savage, but noble beast of prey, surrounded by a hungry pack of parasites, whom one roar of the grander beast is sufficient to send packing in mortal terror. If, however, the physical aspect of the Dowager Empress be that of a beast of prey, her mental attitude is on a similar level; and she has been recently seeking to extend her instinct of terrorism into quarters where, from the nature of the case, it must recoil on herself. She has taken stock of the craven crowd of intriguers who constitute the bureaucracy of China. From them she knows she has nothing to fear; they have been so accustomed to be led that they have forgotten now to think for themselves; besides, they are ready to sympathise with her in her reactionary policy, more especially in her hatred to foreigners and foreign institutions, for have they not in their own persons felt the bitter sting of the foreigner, who would deprive them of those little perquisites of office which ever since the days of the Master himself have ever appertained to the holder? The dislike of the foreigner, which was at first a mere sentiment, has lately grown into an hallucination, which haunts the Empress's waking, and disturbs her sleeping hours; and it is sufficient that any one of her retinue should have had dealings, however innocent, with an outlander, especially if that outlander be an Englishman, to incur her enmity and become a marked man. The case of WENG TUNG-HO is a marked instance of this peculiar phase of mind, which shows how unbalanced has become her intellect. WENG was the teacher of the late Emperor, and in his day was known for his conservative proclivities. He was a man faithful to the Chinese ideal of unswerving integrity, and was personally attached to his young charge. He reminds us in some respects of the story of Wo K'o-tu, the Censor who displayed his devotion to the young Emperor TUNG-CHI by sacrificing himself on the Imperial grave, in despair of amending the slight cast upon the memory of his beloved master in leaving him without an heir. For his devotion to TUNG-CHI's successor, the still more unfortunate KWANG-HSU, WENG has had to undergo the hate of the insatiable TZE-HSI, and not only he, but all who were in any way connected with the unfortunate boy-Emperor. It is one of the characteristics of this Celestial Catherine, that she has recently forbidden the access of any disagreeable truths, and her craven attendants, knowing the effects of disobedience, leave her in ignorance of all that is going on outside the walls of the palace. It is probably through this ignorance that she has recently been seeking to outrage the plainest amenities of international usage. That the favourites who flourish in the Palace of the Dowager should cringe under the threats of a woman such as its mistress is conceivable; that a man so marked by his astuteness as LI HUNG-CHANG should follow, shows how utterly incapable of self-help is the bureaucracy of China. The history of Macao is not, we fear, one of which the colony may be proud, nor have its relations in the past with the Viceroy of the Liang Kwang evinced much of dignity. There are, however, as we pointed out when first

the news of the arrest reached us, some things which in the face of the world a Governor of Macao could scarcely do, for his own sake and for that of his country, and one of these is the surrender of KING LIEN-SHAN. We must, therefore, await the result of the trial with anxiety. It is, of course, easy to rake up a charge of embezzlement against every official in the empire; if an official fail sufficiently to grease the palms of his superior this is the usual method of compelling him or of effecting his ruin. The boundaries of *meum* and *tuum* in China are not defined with the exactness prevailing in the West, and everything that comes into an official's pockets is his own; but he has to share the plunder, or lose his place. KING LIEN-SHAN's account could doubtless be made to show any deficiency required, but this would not make him an embezzler according to Chinese or any other law, and this must be as well known to the Governor of Macao as to the man in the street. The Empress's designs have not, however, been confined to Macao; Shanghai is another spot which has incurred the peculiar dislike of Her Majesty. There are certain little circumstances rankling in the Imperial bosom. Shanghai is by no means desirous of undertaking a political rôle, nor of being dragged into prominence as an Alsatia. It does not unfortunately always rest with a community to work out its own destiny, and Shanghai is not an exception. The circumstances under which Shanghai is placed from the beginning led to its having been entrusted with a considerable share of self-government, and the place has grown into an important municipality, and is attaining a well-earned position amongst the great cities of the world. It would be undeserving of this rank did it fail zealously to guard its privileges in the interest of its inhabitants. It has always resisted the claims of the government to interfere in its private concerns, or levy taxes within its limits, except those admitted to be strictly Imperial, as the land-tax and customs. For the most part these rights have been respected, and it has only been when some reactionary individual came into office that any opposition was displayed; lately attempts have been made at encroachment and the Government of the Empress Dowager has been seeking to gain an opening for interference. No privilege has been more jealously guarded than the freedom from arbitrary arrest, and to secure this privilege intact no arrest is legal without having first obtained the signature of the Consul concerned, or of the Senior Consul. From day to day the most barefaced attempts are made to set aside this salutary regulation, and some "runner" of the native officials is caught *flagrante delicto*, in the act of attempting to drag off to the native *yamens* some unfortunate individual who has incurred official disapprobation. Unfortunately there is no power adequate to punish the delinquent in such a case, who generally, after a few days detention, is permitted to escape. Lately, under the influence of Peking, such attempts have been more frequent than ever, and the municipal police have to exercise more vigilance than ordinarily. As yet no important case has occurred, nor have the police been able to establish any clear instance of political interference. Still the wish is evident, and it is only the sharp eye of the municipal authorities which prevents abuses occurring. This is but an instance of the unsettled condition of affairs generally throughout the empire; and it is plain that such a condition must be fraught with grave dangers to the State. The mice in council held a consultation over the misdeeds of the cat,

and decided to bell her; but who is to bell the Dowager? That is the question of the day.

CHINA'S TRADE IN 1899.

(Daily Press, 21st March.)

The Report on the Foreign Trade of China for the Year 1899 reached us yesterday, and in it Mr. F. E. TAYLOR, the Statistical Secretary, speaks in a very encouraging manner of the state of affairs. In his opening remarks he says: "The Foreign trade of China during the year 1899 was characterised by an astonishing development, and merchants, both Foreign and Native, made handsome profits in almost every branch. The political situation, although still unsettled, gave rise to no immediate fears; the Rice crop was abundant; the spring weather during the critical period for the silkworms was unusually favourable; and, except for a recrudescence of piracy on the West River, there were no disturbances to check trade." This disgraceful state of the West River we in Hongkong are, unfortunately, only too well acquainted with, and we have been protesting against it in vain for years. May we hope that 1900 will see a genuine attempt made to cope with the difficulty? The West River trade is worth the trouble. But, in spite of this blot, the year 1899, Mr. TAYLOR says, "beat all previous records, and showed an advance without precedent. The total trade was valued at Hk. Tls. 460,533,288, a rise of Hk. Tls. 91,916,805 on 1898, and more than double the figures for 1890. The internal trade of the country was also unusually brisk, and the important changes which will be brought about by the extension of railways have already been proved. Newchwang and Tientsin have promptly responded to the stimulus of better means of communication, and the trade at those ports has leapt forward, although the former suffered from a severe outbreak of plague. It is found that immediately trains begin to run, districts through which there was comparatively little traffic, such as between Pootung and Peking, suddenly commence to hum with life and activity, and there springs up a flourishing trade which was formerly undreamt of and impossible for want of cheap transport." The Russian and Peking-Hankow lines are progressing steadily, the latter notwithstanding the difficulties in the southern section, where extensive tunnelling is required. Rails have been laid for 40 kilometres northwards from Hankow, it is pointed out. "The track is now being made as far as Sinyang—to which place it is hoped to run trains within two years—and the whole line of 1,200 kilometres is to be completed in five years, including the difficult engineering feat of bridging the Yellow River." The Taku-Tientsin-Peking line is prosperous, the extension to Newchwang is being pressed on, and Yingkou, the real port of Newchwang, will shortly be connected by rail with the capital. "Difficulties regarding the question of control," continues the Report "are hampering the concessionaires of various other lines, but it is to be hoped these will soon be satisfactorily arranged, as there is no longer any doubt that the effect of cheap transport will lead to an enormous development of China's trade." New Customs-houses have been provided at Santuao, Nanking, and Yochow, the first Treaty port in Hunan; and one on the island of Tsingtao (by arrangement with Germany), to control the trade passing to the mainland through Kiao-chow. Alto-

gether a grand advance has been made in the past year, and all signs point to a continuance of the progress. We propose to deal with the rest of Mr. TAYLOR's Report in another issue. The introductory remarks, however, which we have quoted above, will serve to show that the Report is not only interesting but gratifying to those interested in the commercial development of China.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 23rd March.)

The local politics of the foreign Settlements of Shanghai are not usually of a nature to interest the rest of the world, yet now and then they do assume a part of some importance. From the circumstances of the case, and in order to prevent the benumbing influences of Chinese official interference, the control at the beginning was placed in the hands of the foreign owners of land, who elected their own committee and taxed themselves. This was in accordance with the ordinary Chinese custom of the Village Community, which in places has given rise to important trading centres, such as Fatsan in Kwangtung, Fan-cheng in Hupeh, or Tsingkiang-pu in Kiangsu. Circumstances alter cases in China as elsewhere, and circumstances changed in Shanghai, and it became a city of refuge, when the Taiping rebels ravaged with fire and sword the lower provinces. Shanghai had to conform itself to the altered conditions, and the Foreign Settlements had the task thrown on them of introducing order amongst the motley crew who took refuge under their wing. It was natural enough that the Chinese refugees who took advantage of the shelter should be made to pay for the privilege, but as the place grew in wealth and importance, and the Chinese inhabitants proved themselves worthy citizens, the injustice and impolicy of placing on them more than their fair share of the municipal burdens came to be recognised, and two years ago the taxes, which had hitherto been assessed on a discriminating basis, were finally equalised. To their credit the Chinese have from the beginning recognised the principles of justice which underlay this policy, and have in every way aided the establishment of good government. But the result has had wider reaching consequences, for the Chinese have grasped the meaning of the object lesson, and learned to appreciate the benefits in their own persons of free and honest self-government. The contrast, on the one hand, of the respect paid to order and justice by the municipal government of Shanghai, and, on the other, of the corruption of their own official life has not failed to strike so practical a people as the Chinese; and Shanghai has for long become the headquarters of all that was progressive in the land, while lately it has become the headquarters of the reform party. In Shanghai was started under foreign auspices the first attempt at native journalism. The attempt, looked at askance at first, soon commended itself to the natives who found that free discussion could be permitted without detriment to public morals; and it was not long in commending itself also to the native officials, who soon sought to turn the new weapon to their own uses. They were not altogether successful, and soon found that to run a paper on other than lines which commended themselves to popular views was financially a failure; so by the force of circumstances the native press has maintained an attitude of very marked independence, and has not hesitated to criticise from time to time the acts of the official world. On the whole these criticisms have

been temperate, and shown an amount of latent self respect that could hardly have been expected from a people so subject for ages to the depressing weight of a despotic and irresponsible government. Attempts were made after the *coup d'état* of September 1898 to restrain the liberty of the press, which had declared itself unreservedly against the reactionary policy of the intruding Empress Dowager. The provincial officials were by no means desirous of depriving themselves of a possibly useful ally, and the attempt fell to the ground. Still it is recognised that in the institutions of Shanghai there is something that naturally lends itself to freedom of discussion, and the checks which have gradually grown up against the exercise of arbitrary power are a difficulty in the path of the present ruling faction. This very position has, however, more than ever brought about a *rapprochement* between the foreign and native elements in the Foreign Settlements, so much so that the lines separating the two elements are becoming gradually relaxed, and Shanghai is assuming by degrees the character of a homogeneous community. This was well exemplified at the recent meeting of the local parliament, when an offer of certain of the higher class of Chinese residents to contribute a substantial sum of 40,000 dollars towards the establishment of a native school, where foreign science should form a main part of the curriculum, came up for discussion. It was noteworthy that no discussion whatever took place on the principle involved. The Chinese were taxpayers, and the claims of education, as far as foreign children were concerned, had been already acknowledged and met; the Chinese were entitled to the same consideration, as an act of expediency as well as justice. The question resolved itself into the important one of the most profitable methods to adopt. As presented, the scheme inclined to the erection of a large central edifice for advanced education, while a large section were rather in favour of a system of local schools for imparting the foundations of knowledge—to teach the rising generation the methods of learning rather than seek to finish the already advanced student. Both these requirements were accepted as essential to the eventual well being of the inhabitants, and will, no doubt, be in the end adopted. The tendency of this movement is unquestionably to create in Shanghai a large and increasing body of Chinese residents, who are prepared to make Shanghai their permanent home, and are drifting away from the local ties of the family and clan. They are Chinese in the wide sense, and recognise their rights and claims as such, and to such the humiliation which the present administration is bringing on their country is a cause of shame and regret. That this feeling is becoming general was curiously exemplified the other day. An article had appeared in one of the more influential of the native papers reflecting on the character of men like KANG YU-WEI (who, as our special Telegram to-day announces, is still in Singapore, after all) and KING LIEN-SHAN, who have shown their sincerity by openly espousing the cause of their Imperial Master. A feeling of wide-spread indignation was the result, and the paper had to withdraw the offensive paragraph, and make a public apology. In all these movements it is satisfactory to find the natives of the Settlements showing an intelligent interest, and it cannot but be grateful to the members of the Foreign Municipality that the honesty of their intentions has met with acknowledgement from so impassive a people as the Chinese ordinarily are.

THE WATCHFUL ATTITUDE.

(Daily Press, 20th March.)

It is so rarely that we see French colonial papers publishing anything in commendation of Great Britain that we cannot refrain from quoting a few lines from the *Politique Coloniale*. "British sangfroid is not an empty expression. We get instances of it daily in the calm attitude in which the English people receive the news from the Transvaal. . . . So, in spite of her serious preoccupation in South African affairs, England does not lose sight of the Chinese question. Unable to contemplate establishing her influence, for the present, *manu militari*, Her Majesty's Government has taken a measure which appears as if it should be a preliminary to the future permeation of China by the British element." The measure referred to is the fifteen months' residence in Peking, for the purpose of learning Chinese, which has been accorded to our officials in Burmah. The French writer displays throughout his article an admiration for English policy which is a pleasing contrast to the tone usually adopted by his countrymen in their colonial papers. We have quoted occasionally some of their remarks about England, and we saw the other day the sensational pictures of "English outrages," Boer prisoners chained to guns, wounded men forced to march bare-footed, and so on. Such language, of course, is only to be expected, for the French colonials are, practically without exception, members of the "Forward" party, the people who were ready to go to war about Fashoda and whose policy is more conspicuous for hatred of other nations, England for choice, than for any real patriotism on behalf of France. Fortunately, France is not wholly given over to these fanatics, though her policy in China is strongly influenced by their views. The infiltration of French agents, whether religious, scientific, or openly political, into Yunnan and the neighbouring provinces, is at least sanctioned by the home authorities of the Republic. A knowledge of Chinese, such as is aimed at by the regulation about our officials in Burmah, becomes daily a more important question, and we have no doubt France will be spurred to emulation. In the meantime it is interesting to note that the French look on it as a rather serious indication of the turn events are taking that, as a writer in the *Revue des Revues* says, English is on the road to replacing French in the diplomatic intercourse of the Far East; and that the recent treaty between China and Mexico was issued in English, not French. We do not mention these French comments on the growth of Anglo-Saxon influence in order to excite feelings of complacency, but rather to show the watchfulness of France over her concerns in China—a watchfulness which it is our duty to imitate.

"L. G." in the *Courrier d'Haiphong*, writing of M. Doumer, the Governor of French Indo-China and his "raid" into Yunnan, calls the visit a mistake. "We know," he says, "how the great dignitaries of China travel. The ceremony displayed by them in the smallest journey seems to Europeans nothing short of stupefying. Chinese custom renders it necessary. The sight, therefore, of M. Doumer riding on horse-back with no particular pomp or in the "devourer of miles" (the train) caused a smile and prompted the witty remark that the Governor travelled as his own servant. These little details are nothing in our eyes; with the Chinese they have a tremendous importance." M. Doumer's error unfortunately is only too common among European officials dealing with the Chinese.

THE FRONTIER OUTRAGE.

(Daily Press, 21st March.)

It is now more than a month ago since we first published the intelligence about the murder of Major KIDDLE and Mr. SUTHERLAND. In another column to-day we give the report on the occurrence by Mr. LITTON, who was with them at the time and was himself wounded. This report puts a very grave appearance on the conduct of the Chinese General LIU, who cannot have been ignorant of the state of feeling in the Shan town, and yet raised no objection to the visit of the Commissioners, and only provided a small escort of ten men and a non-commissioned officer. The escort disappeared in a long narrow street soon after entering the town, and the non-commissioned officer alone, though acting with great bravery, was unable to save the lives of the two murdered officials. Of course, it may be argued that our Commissioners must also have known that the Was were hostile, but they had their duty to perform, and this duty could not be done by keeping out of all danger. General LIU, the representative of a friendly nation, was bound to afford what protection was in his power, and this he did not do. A knowledge of the ways of Chinese officials will not encourage anyone to think that the soldiers disappeared on their own initiative; and, even if this were so, what good would ten men have done, had they remained, against a crowd of three or four hundred? The action taken in the matter, as we reported on Saturday last, has been that our troops have taken and burnt two Chinese fortresses on the Burmah-Yunnan frontier and killed and wounded some eight Chinese soldiers, whereat the Tsungli Yamen is said to have been "greatly terrified," and to have sent "a most humble message" to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, begging him to prevent any further action and promising every effort to give full redress. No redress can be full which does not prevent the recurrence of such outrages in the future. We await Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's reply to the Tsungli Yamen with some curiosity. China's usual idea of compensation in these little affairs—whereof she has no small experience—is the nominal degradation of the responsible official, often effected by his appointment to another important office, and a money fine, of which she hardly feels the loss. But such measures do not meet the present case, and the Tsungli Yamen must know that this is so. Hence their terror.

It is contemplated giving the Empress Dowager two more honorary titles. She has already sixteen, more than any other Empress before her.

The *Rossia*, quoted in the last number to hand of *The London and China Express*, has at least the virtue of frankness. Holding that the present policy of China is a menace to the safety of the Manchurian Railway and in general to the enormous interests of Russia in the Celestial Empire, it says that for the Russian Government the most practical of the measures to be taken to safeguard its interests would be to annex purely and simply Manchuria and the Liao-tung Peninsula, instead of being content with those places remaining spheres of influence. The journal adds that the present moment is peculiarly favourable for the annexation, as no protests are to be feared from France, being an ally of Russia, nor from Great Britain, which is at present paralysed by the South African war, nor from Germany, which is less than ever disposed to stand in the way of Russia, nor, in the last case, from Japan, which is already sufficiently indemnified, in Korea, with the assent of Russia. As far as China is concerned, it is for her own interests to be in agreement with Russia, and to acquiesce in her demands.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.)

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

The Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. HIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Hon. H. C. NICHOLLE.

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S PROTEST.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, pursuant to notice, laid on the table his protest in connection with the New Territories Land Court Bill.

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 10, 11, and 12, and proposed that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

DISORDERLY HOUSES.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of his intention to ask the following question at the next meeting of the Council:—Will the Honourable the Registrar General inform the Council whether it is a fact that the occupants of disorderly houses who had been moved out of houses in the Central districts and gone into houses to the West thereof are again being moved and if so whether the movements have been or are being effected by virtue of orders made by the Magistrate or by the summary actions of the Police.

THE CONDITION OF YEE WOO STREET.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD had given notice of the following question:—Has the attention of the Honourable the Director of Public Works been directed to the dangerous condition of Yee Woo Street at the corner of Mr. Kennedy's Horse Repository at Causeway Bay and alongside the site of the proposed new Laundry to be erected there; and to the fact that the south-east boundary stone of the latter lot projects some six inches above the level of the ground and has been placed well high in the middle of the road; and to the fact that on the south side a drain has been dug of considerable depth, without any protection; and will the Honourable member inform the Council why this state of matters is permitted to continue?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied as follows:—The question seems to refer, not to Yee Wo Street, in which no trench has been dug or boundary stone fixed, but to an unfinished road now under construction, leading to Tai Hang village. The trench, two feet in depth, was opened in order that a water-main might be extended, the extension being rendered necessary by the sale of land in the neighbourhood. The boundary stone is not in the middle of any road, but correctly marks the boundary of land sold some time ago. While a road is in an incomplete state, the persons who elect to use it must necessarily suffer some inconvenience.

THE SHELL-COLLECTING CASES.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to move the resolution standing in my name, which runs as follows:—That the Honourable the Colonial Secretary lay upon the table a copy of the Crown Leases granted last autumn to the Lee Hing Company for the dredging and collecting of shells in and around Ping Chau Island in the New Territory, asked for in my question of 15th February last." On the 15th of last month in this Council I asked for the production of the Crown lease in question. Your Ex-

cency then said that you did not see anything in the question about a copy of the lease, but that I could see a copy of the lease. I applied for a copy of the lease privately to the Clerk of Councils, and in reply I was referred to the Land Office, where I was told I could see a copy. I submit, sir, that it is scarcely fair treatment for a member of this Council to be asked to go to a department of Government when he desires that a copy of a public paper should be laid on the table. I do not ask for the lease in question for my own information or for my own personal use. I ask for it for the information of the Council generally. I submit that we have a right to a copy of the Crown lease in order that we may see whether the instructions of the Secretary of State have been carried out.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not think the honourable member's recollection of what took place on the 15th February is quite accurate. It is true Your Excellency said there was no objection to his seeing the lease, and I suggested to the honourable member that he could see the lease at the Land Office. He does not appear to have done so, and since he was informed to that effect a suit has been instituted in the Supreme Court bearing upon that lease, and it does not seem at all desirable now to lay on the table a document which is really the subject of litigation.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—As the Acting Colonial Secretary has stated, this lease is the subject of litigation at the present moment, and the honourable member will see that to produce this lease here would be really invite the Legislative Council to undertake the executive work of the Colony, which, I think, is very undesirable. If there is anything improper in the lease the Court will set it right. If anything is before the Court the Court is the proper place to take it to. It does not seem to me to be desirable to lay it before the Council. As the Colonial Secretary has stated, a copy of the lease can be seen at any time in the Land Office by anybody.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—That being so, I do not see what should prevent you from laying a copy on the table. I believe it is within my right to go to the Land Office, pay a fee and get a copy, but a member of the Council should not have to go there and follow such a course.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Does the honourable gentleman wish to divide?

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I wish to point out that the resolution has not been seconded.

THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the third reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to facilitate the hearing, determination, and settlement of land claims in the New Territories, to establish a Land Court, and for other purposes.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to move as an amendment that the Bill be recommitted. I have most carefully considered the remarks made by the Attorney-General at the last meeting of the Council, and I have seen no reason whatever to change the views I then entertained. I have given in my protest my reasons for dissenting from the measure. Your Excellency's ruling at the last meeting in connection with the Bill is, I am afraid, scarcely correct. Since the last meeting I have studied carefully May's Parliamentary Practice, which shows—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—To what ruling do you refer?

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—When I moved that the Bill be recommitted and read a first time and translated into Chinese for the information of the Chinese.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—It has escaped my recollection. Perhaps the honourable member will remind me.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I said that as the Bill was an entirely new Bill in substance and principle I would move that it be recommitted and read a first time. Your Excellency ruled that I was out of order. I have carefully studied May's Parliamentary Practices, and what I moved was in accordance with it.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—My recollection is that the honourable member moved that the Council adjourn.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There appears to be some misapprehension. The Bill was before Committee, and to move that a Bill be recommitted when it was before committee was out of the question.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—My recollection is that the honourable member did make some observations on the lines of those which he has now made, but I do not think he moved any amendment. At my suggestion he did make a motion to the effect that the Council resume. That motion was put and lost, as I assume the other that the Council adjourn would have been.

As no one seconded the honourable member's amendment it fell to the ground and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The council adjourned until Thursday next.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

The CHAIRMAN announced that at the request of the senior unofficial member the consideration of Finance Minute No. 9 had been postponed for a week. In Finance minute No. 10 the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$50,000 in aid of the vote "Taipo Road" (Public Works Extraordinary). The Director of Public Works could give members any information they desired with regard to this matter.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, replying to the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, said the road had been taken as far as Taiwai, which was about nine miles from Kowloon. It had not yet reached Deep Water Bay. Two miles more would bring it to a point where launches could go close up to the road at any tide.

The vote was passed.

The CHAIRMAN said Finance Minute No. 11 was:—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$1,050 for the maintenance of roads in New Territory. This sum was required to keep Taipo Road in repair, a portion of which, over seven miles in length, had been made.

The vote was passed.

The CHAIRMAN said Finance Minute No. 12 read:—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$3,380 in aid of the following votes in the Sanitary Department:—Salary for 2 Inspectors at \$100 per mensem each for 9½ months, \$1,900; Rent Allowance for same at \$30 per mensem each for 9½ months, \$570; Approximate Incidental Conveyance Expenses, 320 Uniforms for Inspectors, \$210; Salary for one additional Clerk at \$40 a month for 9½ months, \$380; Total, \$3,380.

The Chairman added that this was to defray the cost of one or two extra inspectors and an additional clerk, which was the additional staff asked for at the end of last year by a unanimous resolution of the Sanitary Board.

The vote was passed.

This was all the business.

THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT BILL.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S PROTEST.

The following is a copy of the protest laid before the Legislative Council by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead:—

1. Whereas at the meeting of the Council held on March 15th, 1900, the Attorney General moved that the Council go into Committee to consider clause by clause a Bill entitled—

"An Ordinance to facilitate the hearing, determination and settlement of land claims in the New Territories, to establish a Land Court and for other purposes."

2. And whereas I opposed the said motion on the grounds that the said Bill was a totally different Bill from that read a second time on the 30th November last, and I submitted that it should be treated as a new Bill, re-introduced, read a first time and published in the Gazette, and whereas the majority of the Council was of another opinion, and the Council went into Committee, and whereas in Committee I moved that the consideration of the Bill in Committee be adjourned to allow the important alterations in the Bill to be considered by Honourable Members, and whereas the majority of the

Council was of another opinion, and whereas I thereupon desired to have my dissent recorded and gave notice that I would at the then next meeting of Council lay upon the table the reasons for my dissent, under Rule 32 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council; now, therefore, I lay upon the Council table a statement of my said reasons.

3. On the 23rd November last a Bill entitled "The New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1899," was introduced and read a first time and was, on the 25th November last, published in English only in the *Gazette*. The same Bill was read a second time on the 30th November last, and was referred to the Law Committee.

4. The Bill considered in Committee on the 15th March instant is in substance a totally different Bill from that read a second time and referred to the Law Committee, and the Law Committee had no instructions or authority from this Council so to alter the said Bill.

5. The essential differences are as follows:—

(a) The original Bill proposed the constitution of a Court to consist of three Members designated in the Bill by their offices, one of whom was the Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, and another of them an experienced Solicitor. The amended Bill proposes to constitute a Court of two members only, to be appointed by the Governor without any restriction or provision to secure the appointment of any person as a member thereof possessed of legal knowledge or training.

(b) The original Bill gave the proposed Court power to determine solely as to the right of existing owners and occupiers of land in the New Territories to obtain certificates or recognition of their titles from the Crown. The amended Bill gives the proposed Court power to hear and determine all claims to land of any kind whatsoever in the New Territory notwithstanding any previous registration and whether arising between the Crown and the occupier or between owners, occupiers, or others.

(c) The original Bill was framed for the purpose of enabling existing titles to be verified and authenticated by certificate from the Crown, and for preventing occupation of land after refusal of such certificate without a fresh grant from the Crown. (See section 12.) The amended Bill by section 15 confiscates to the Crown all the land in the New Territories, disregards all former titles, however old or well founded, and declares all occupants of land in the New Territories trespassers from a date to be hereafter defined by the Governor unless they obtain fresh titles from the Crown.

(d) The original Bill was in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Convention of the 9th June, 1898, for the cession of the New Territories. The amended Bill disregards and sets aside the provision of the said Convention against expropriation or expulsion of the inhabitants of the district included in the cession and declares the whole soil to be the property of the Crown.

(e) The original Bill permitted parties to be represented by Counsel and solicitor before the Court thereby constituted. The amended Bill takes away that right.

6. The amended Bill has not been published in the *Gazette*; has never been translated into Chinese nor published anywhere in the New Territory. It is a Bill that seriously affects existing private rights and against which all parties affected have the right to be heard by Counsel. No opportunity has been afforded them of even knowing that such a Bill is under consideration.

7. For the above reasons I protest against the further proceeding with this amended Bill. It should be re-introduced and read a first time. It should be translated into Chinese, duly published in the New Territory, and ample time given the owners and occupiers of land there to consider it and if need be oppose it.

8. I further protest against the Bill as a whole and on its merits as being in violation of the provisions of the Convention of the 9th June, 1898, relating to the New Territories.

The "Gubby" Cup, offered in connection with the "C" Maxim Gun Company of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, has been won for the season 1899-1900 by Gunner Baldwin, whose score of 95.5 points handicap was not beaten during the four shoots for this cup.

SUPREME COURT.

19th March.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ABUSING A POSITION OF TRUST.

Arthur Paul Preechur was charged that on July 1st, whilst employed as clerk with J. Ullmann and Co., jewellers, etc., Queen's Road Central, he stole a goldscarf pin and a diamond ring, the property of his employers. The prisoner pleaded guilty.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) said he understood there was no desire on the part of the prosecution to press hardly upon the young man. No doubt he had committed a crime and he had made full confession of his crime and expressed his sorrow that he had committed the crime, and the matter would be left in his Lordship's hands. The manager of Ullmann and Co. left the colony on the 10th May, of last year, and returned on the 8th of the August following. During his absence the prisoner and another man were left in joint charge of the business. When the manager came back he did not notice anything particular at first, but in February last, when comparing the stock with the books, he found that seven rings and a diamond scarf pin were missing. There was also one ring which he did not recognise as part of his stock, and it turned out that the prisoner had taken the diamond out of the pin and worked it into a ring to replace the ring he had stolen. When this ring was discovered, the prisoner was questioned about the matter and he made the confession that he had taken the diamond out of the scarf pin and worked it into a ring. Subsequently he confessed to having taken the other rings, and expressed contrition for what he had done. He hoped he would be given another chance, and expressed a wish to work for \$10 a month until he had paid off the full value of the articles appropriated. The manager, however, thought punishment should be inflicted upon the prisoner as a warning to other men left in responsible positions.

His Lordship said—I am sorry to see a respectable young man like you in this position. I suppose some temptation brought you into this plight and you were not strong enough to resist it. I have regard to what the Attorney-General has said on behalf Mr. Ullmann, and I think it is kind of him to put it in that way. At the same time I have to remember you were in a position of trust and confidence, and you have grossly abused that position of trust and confidence. The Court must punish you in a way that will show people placed in these positions of trust that they cannot abuse them in that way. But for the Attorney-General's remarks I would have imposed a more severe sentence. The least I can impose upon you is that you will undergo imprisonment with hard labour for six months.

THE COUNTERFEIT COIN CASE—THE BAIL ESCHEATED.

Tung Mau Sang, who had been committed for trial for bringing counterfeit coin into the colony, had been allowed out on bail, and he did not appear to answer the charge.

The Attorney-General observed that he was calling this case on now because he had information given him that morning that the man who undertook to be security for the prisoner went to the Central Police Station on Sunday and reported that the man had run away. He understood that he wished to pay the amount of the bail. He would ask to have the bail escheated and a bench warrant issued for the prisoner's apprehension.

His Lordship—What was the amount of the bail?

The Attorney-General—\$500. Rather small, my Lord.

His Lordship—Rather small for a serious offence like that.

The Attorney-General—It occurred to me to be somewhat small. I shall communicate that to the Magistrate. If this man is connected with a gang who import bad money into the

colony, they would rather pay money than have him convicted.

His Lordship—I should think \$2,000 would have been a moderate sum.

Evidence having been given as to the issue of the warrant of the court, the service of which his Lordship did not consider altogether satisfactory, the security was called forward.

Addressing him, His Lordship said—You undertook that this man should appear at this court to stand his trial. If you do that you must understand that if the man does not appear you must pay the fine, and the sooner you pay the amount into the Treasury the better. Let the recognizances be escheated.

A bench warrant was issued.

ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE A CHINESE CONSTABLE.

Lo Shing was charged with (1) offering a bribe to a public servant with a view to incline him to do an act contrary to his duty, and (2) offering a bribe to a public servant with the view to influencing his conduct. He pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. O. Gutierrez (foreman), F. Weller, Hugh Berkley, Richard Hill, G. J. Sequeira, F. D. Maclean, and P. Moeller.

The Attorney-General said that on the 15th July Chinese Police Constable 391 found a number of men engaged in playing at fan-tan in a public street. The prisoner, who was acting as banker, was taken into custody, the others getting away. When half-way up to the Police Station the prisoner took out of his pocket \$1.40 and handed it over to the constable and asked him to let him go. However, the constable refused to do so, and when he arrived at the Police Station reported the matter to the Inspector on duty. The result was that the man was brought before the Magistrate for gambling, and when that matter was disposed of a further charge was brought against the prisoner—the charge of attempting to bribe a public servant—and he was committed for trial.

The prisoner said that he was paying off some coolies near to where some men were gambling. On the constable coming up the gamblers dispersed and the constable seized him and took him to the Police Station. It was not true that on the way he offered the constable money. The constable assaulted him and took the money from him.

The jury found the prisoner guilty on both counts, and his Lordship sentenced him to six months with hard labour.

AN ABOMINABLE OFFENCE.

Charles Critchley and Lam Shing were charged with attempting to commit an abominable offence. They pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were: Messrs. W. Schmidt (foreman), T. H. Jewitt, J. C. Goodchild, J. S. Gubbay, P. F. de Rozario, Paul Brewitt and John Shelton.

The Foreman, after the jury had consulted for a minute or so, said that the jury found the prisoners guilty by five to two.

His Lordship said that in the case of a majority verdict it was necessary that a reasonable time should be spent in considering it, and suggested that the jury should retire.

This the jury did, and on their return the Foreman announced that the jury found the prisoners guilty by six to one.

His Lordship sentenced the European to five years' imprisonment and the Chinaman to four years' imprisonment.

March 21st.

BEFORE HIS HONOR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

PALMER AND TURNER V. BELILIOS.

In this case Messrs. Palmer, architects, sought to recover from the Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., the sum of \$775, the balance of fees for professional services.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Johnston, Stokes, and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., for the defendant.

Mr. Slade said that at the end of 1897 and the beginning of 1898 the defendant employed

Messrs. Palmer and Turner to make plans and specifications for 13 Chinese houses in Yaumati, Kowloon. The plans were made and a tender was finally accepted and a contract made with a certain contractor to complete the work for \$19,500. Thereupon, or on the completion of that contract, in the ordinary course of things, Messrs. Palmer and Turner charged Mr. Belilios with 5 per cent. on the total of that contract. Half of this was payable on the signing of the contract and half on the completion of the work. On the signing of the contract, or shortly afterwards, a debit note for half the amount due to the plaintiffs was sent to Mr. Belilios and he paid the money. The contract was made in February, 1898, and the work was to have been completed by November of the same year. The work was, however, still in the contractor's hands on the 7th of December, of that year. In a severe storm a considerable portion of one or two houses were blown down. Thereupon the contractor ran away, and there was an end to that particular contract. Then Messrs. Palmer and Turner, with the consent of Mr. Belilios, set to work to find another contractor to complete the work. He might say that 85 or 90 per cent. of the work had then been completed. Messrs. Palmer and Turner took a considerable amount of trouble in endeavouring to find a new contractor to complete the work for anything like a reasonable sum, taking several contractors over the work and explaining to them what required to be done. Mr. Belilios being of opinion that Messrs. Palmer and Turner had been negligent, took the work out of their hands and gave it to another architect. The new contractor undertook to complete the work for \$11,500. The work was completed, and his Lordship might remember Mr. Belilios sued Messrs. Palmer and Turner, contending that they had certified for too much. Judgment was, however, given in favour of Messrs. Palmer and Turner. Subsequently the balance of the commission due to the plaintiffs was paid by Mr. Belilios, who, however, refused to pay the \$275 charged for extra services.

After the evidence Mr. Francis addressed the court on behalf of his client.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

March 22nd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

L. KUI V. MUSSO.

Li Kui, of 55a, Hollywood Road, contractor, sought to recover from Madame Musso, of 263, Praya West, widow, the sum of \$1,000 for work done. The plaintiffs full claim was for \$1,033.40, but the \$33.40 was waived to bring the case within the jurisdiction of the Summary Court. \$800 had been paid into Court.

Mr. Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Looker for the defendant.

Mr. Wilkinson said that action was brought to recover the amount contracted by the defendant to the plaintiff for work done by the plaintiff in repairs and alterations on certain building belonging to the defendant. Since the completion of the work the defendant had come to the conclusion that the actual work done was less than the contract price, and had refused to pay anything more than what she herself thought was the actual value. It appeared that the defendant wished to have certain repairs and alterations made to her house, and she instructed Messrs. Denison and Ram to obtain a tender. Tenders were invited and that of the plaintiff's for \$1,067 was accepted. The plaintiff completed the work to the satisfaction of the architects—that is, completed it with the exception of some painting. When the work was done with the exception of this painting she wished certain other work done before the painting was proceeded with. They, however, could not come to terms and the painting was left unfinished. In consequence the plaintiff, at the request of Messrs. Denison and Ram, deducted \$40 from their bill, which was marked "correct" by Mr. Ram. This bill was presented by his client to the defendant, who declined to pay it, asking that \$200 should be deducted.

His client refused to reduce the bill by a cent less than the amount which the architects had certified as the correct amount. \$800 add dollars had been paid into court.

Mr. Looker said the defence was that the work was not done in a proper and workmanlike manner, and he should submit to his lordship that the fact of Messrs. Denison and Ram having certified that the bill was correct was not evidence which his Lordship could receive that the work was done in a proper and workmanlike manner. The plaintiff must prove that it was. He (Mr. Looker) was prepared to prove that it was not.

His Lordship—Are you going to set up your knowledge of building against that of Messrs. Denison and Ram?

Mr. Looker—I have another architect, and if necessary I think Mr. Ram would say the work was not done in a proper and workmanlike manner.

His Lordship—I don't know how Mr. Ram is going to get over his own signature.

Mr. Wilkinson—Nor I, my Lord.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon, the 15th inst. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair and there were also present: the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Lieut.-Col. Ryan, Mr. Fung Wei Chuen, Mr. J. McKie, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Hartigan, Mr. F. J. Badeley (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. Chan A Fook and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

THE EXTERMINATION OF RATS.

The first item on the agenda was "Adjourned consideration of the question of certain proposed methods for the extermination of rats."

Mr. McKie minuted—"Are we acting up to the advice contained in this despatch and its enclosure by spending \$1.00 a day only? If we really mean to exterminate rats we should take the matter up far more energetically. The return should be 300 rats a day and not 300 a week."

Lieut.-Col. Ryan—"I concur in the remarks of Mr. McKie."

A letter was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary to the effect that His Excellency the Governor approved of the payment of rewards for rats caught for a further period of three months.

A report was also submitted from the Secretary of the Board to the effect that in accordance with the C. S. O. 2882 of 1899, authority was given for the payment of expenditure incurred in exterminating rats, and while the necessary traps, etc., were being prepared a further authority for paying two cents a head for each rat caught and delivered at the Sanitary Board's office was given. Six hundred traps were made in the Gaol and 112 lbs. of bird lime procured. A start was made on January 13th. Necessary advertisements were inserted, and up to the 6th February only 33 rats were brought to the office, but on this date a new mode of payment was made by the Inspectors of the various health districts receiving the rats at the dust carts as they went round and paying the money on the spot. From the 6th February to date (March 2nd) under the new system 1,136 rats were paid for. The tails of the rats were cut off to prevent fraud and only un mutilated rats paid for. The rate of rat catching amounted to about 300 a week. There had been supplied to Europeans and non-Chinese on application at the Sanitary Board's office 189 traps, 60 pots of bird lime, and 93 lime boards. The Inspector at Wanchai had distributed 43 traps to the Chinese in that district. He might mention incidentally that last year about 1,000 rats were caught by men employed by the Board within a period of about two months in the city of Victoria. At Tsim Tsat Tsui 15 traps, seven lb. jars of birds' lime, and five boards were issued and 21 rats paid for at the Police Station from 13th January to date.

Mr. McKie minuted—"Very unsatisfactory."

Mr. OSBORNE moved—"That experiments be made by the Board's Surveyor in some section

of the sewers as to the practicability in Hongkong of destroying rats by gases, and that in the meantime the Government be informed that the utmost publicity is being given to the offer of a reward for every rat delivered to an officer of the Board."

The PRESIDENT seconded.

Dr. CLARK also spoke on the motion, which was carried.

THE VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

The report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. C. V. Ladds) for the year 1899 was submitted.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Dr. HARTIGAN, the discussion on the report was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

THE LIME-WASHING PROSECUTIONS.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN had given notice of the following motion:—"That notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2 of the Public Health Amendment Ordinance, 1900, and in order to avoid unnecessary prosecutions of well-disposed but careless persons, notices shall, as a rule, be issued from time to time by this Board to the owners or occupiers of houses to remind them that the provisions of certain Bye-laws made under Section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887 (No. 24 of 1887), will have to be complied with or carried out forthwith or within certain stated time, and that prosecution will be instituted on the breach thereof without further notice or delay."

A somewhat lengthy discussion took place on the subject, and ultimately, on the motion of Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN, seconded by Mr. CHAN A FOOK, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That notice be given by letter to the owners of tenement houses in the city of Victoria during the months in which the said houses and required by the Bye-law made under sub-section 4 of section 13 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1887 to be cleansed and limewashed. For the purposes of this resolution it shall be sufficient for the Secretary to forward a letter to the person whose name is registered at the Land Office as the owner of the property."

Mr. OSBORNE subsequently said the return as to limewashing showed that during the past fortnight better results had been obtained than heretofore.

It was decided that in future the return should be circulated among the members.

THE INCREASE TO THE STAFF SANCTIONED.

Letters were read from the Acting Colonial Secretary informing the Board that the Secretary of State had approved of the appointment of two additional first-class inspectors and one clerk, and that the present temporary clerk may be placed on the permanent staff.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Dr. Hartigan, it was resolved "That the Government be asked what decision has been arrived at with respect to the other recommendations of the Board which were forwarded at the same time as the above."

PLANS FOR GODOWNS.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner submitted plans for the proposed re-building of two godowns in Hing Fung Lane, Marine Lot No. 186. They wrote that these godowns were recently burnt down and the owner, Mr. Yee Fook, wished to rebuild them exactly the same as before and to correspond with the adjoining godown. The plans had been returned to them by the Director of Public Works, who pointed out that it did not comply with section 12, clause b, of Ordinance 15 of 1894, which enacted that in a lane less than 15 feet wide the height of the building to underside of lanes should not exceed 25 feet. The Board had, however, the power to authorise a departure from this rule, and they accordingly asked the Board to sanction the erection of the buildings to the same height as before.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. McKIE, the exemption asked for was granted.

THE RAID AGAINST OWNERLESS DOGS.

A report, dated February 28th, was submitted by the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police as to the action taken by the police against ownerless dogs. It said:—"All dogs seen by police wandering without collar and badge are seized and taken to the pound at West Point. If not claimed or ransomed within three days they are destroyed. During the past two months 25 such dogs have been impounded. Of these 14 were unclaimed and destroyed, one died

in pound, and the rest were claimed by owners or ransomed. Besides these four stray dogs were shot on the Race Course."

Mr. McKie minuted—"Surely there must have been more than 25 such dogs seen by the police in two months."

Dr. Hartigan minuted—"I have seen more than the number mentioned in a week."

Mr. BADELEY said he would be glad if any member could tell him where his men could find the dogs spoken of.

A REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT WANTED.

On the motion of Mr. McKie, second by Dr. HARTIGAN, it was decided to ask the Government to reply to the Board's resolution with regard to the urinal at the eastern end of the cricket ground.

PLAGUE AT HAINAN.

A report, dated March 3rd, was submitted from the British Consulate at Kungchow to the effect that there were about 20 cases of bubonic plague there. Only townspeople were attacked yet and not any, persons likely to go to Hongkong.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death rate for the colony for the week ended February 24th was 19.6, against 24.4 for the previous week and 19.3 for the corresponding week last year. The death rate for the week ended March 3rd was 21.6, against 19.3 for the corresponding week last year.

THE HEALTH OF MACAO.

The deaths at Macao during the week ended February 18th numbered 69 (including five from bubonic plague) and for the succeeding week 62 (including three from plague).

THE CASE OF KING LIEN-SHAN.

A dispatch received by members of the Reform Party in Shanghai from friends at Macao concerning the arrest and trial of King Lien-shan, state that the formal trial was to take place on the 28th of the month at the Barracks, when Liu Hsi-hsun was expected to produce proofs of the alleged frauds. "On the day," says the dispatch, "Mr. King was provided by the Portuguese authorities with a four-bearer sedan-chair in which he was carried in mandarin style from his place of confinement to the Court. When he arrived there Mr. King was accosted by high Portuguese officials, who told him that he had their sympathies; that he would be treated with every courtesy and consideration, and that the authorities would do their best to obtain his release. We feel certain that Mr. King and the Party he represents owe all this to the generosity of the various foreign newspapers of Hongkong and Shanghai, and also because Mrs. Archibald Little, the well-known President of the Natural Feet Society, most eloquently wrote to the Portuguese officials pleading for justice and kind treatment on behalf of our friend. Before the day of trial a certain English gentleman in Macao, who has been doing his best to assist Mr. King, suggested to the Governor of Macao that, as Mr. King had been accused of defrauding the Chinese Telegraphs in Shanghai, within the limits of the British Settlement, he should by rights be allowed British lawyers to assist in his defence. This was happily allowed by the Portuguese authorities. Telegrams were at once sent to Hongkong by friends to engage the best counsel available there, and accordingly on the morning of the 28th three legal gentlemen from Hongkong appeared at Court. Nothing important occurred on the first day of trial, the time being occupied only as regarded identification, etc. The question of the defrauding of Government money was not touched. A remand was then asked for by Mr. King's counsel and granted the next trial being fixed a week from now. Matters, however, look more favourable than at first."

For the translation of this letter we are indebted to the *North China Daily News*.

On Sunday last a very destructive fire occurred in Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s godown, Peking Road, Shanghai. After an hour's hard work by the local Brigade, aided by blue-jackets from the *Bonaventure* and *Peacock*, the flames were subdued. The damage is reckoned at about 100,000 Tls.

THE YUNNAN-BURMAH FRONTIER OUTRAGE.

The *China Gazette* Peking Correspondent writes that on the 4th inst. the Tsung-li Yamen received a telegram from the Chinese officials in Yunnan telling them the British troops (which had been reinforced by a couple of hundred men from Bhamo) destroyed and burnt the Chinese fortresses at Fe-tso, and Pa-nih, on the Burmah-Yunnan frontier, and killed and wounded some eight Chinese soldiers. This, the telegram added, was in punishment for the recent attack upon the British Commission. The Yamen was greatly terrified by the news and immediately sent a most humble message to the British Minister, Sir Claude Macdonald, begging him to prevent any further action by his Government and by the troops on the frontier, and said they would make every effort to give full redress by China for the outrage if the British soldiers were restrained. They begged the Minister to use his influence to obtain a peaceful settlement and a calm discussion of and investigation into the outrage. But though we have not heard what the Minister's reply was, it is well known that of late the former sympathy and friendly disposition of the Minister towards the Chinese Government have been quite destroyed by the constant acts of treachery and deceit of that Government, and it is not believed that any specious representations and excuses concocted by the Chinese officials in the capital will affect the British action in Yunnan. The relations between the Peking officials and the British Minister are every day going from bad to worse, until it is feared they will reach breaking point, and no excuse that can be put forward by China for her manifold sins will avail her.

THE MURDER OF MAJOR KIDDLE AND MR. SUTHERLAND.

At last we have the official statement in reference to the atrocious murder of Major Kiddle and Mr. Sutherland, at Meng-Tum, on the 9th February, by members of the Wa tribe. The following report by Mr. G. T. L. Litton will read with interest:—

"Last night Mr. Sutherland proposed to go and have a look at the Shan town of Meng Tum 7 miles south of this. I consented and told General Liu that I thought of going. No objection was raised, and a N.C.O. with, I think, 10 soldiers was sent with us. We started at 11 a.m. Major Kiddle, who determined at the last moment to come with us and to walk, left 20 minutes before us. We caught him up about two miles from Meng Tum, and went on together into the town. There is a narrow street about 200 yards long leading into a large market square. The soldiers preceded us by some distance and we saw no more of them, but the N.C.O. kept with us. Our presence in the market excited no commotion for ten minutes or so, when there was a roar of voices from the three or four hundred persons assembled and they all rushed to the far end of the market. Stones were thrown and arrows fired from cross-bows and swords drawn. We three were quite unarmed with the exception of Major Kiddle's shot-gun. We at once retreated up the street, where, I think, Mr. Sutherland and Major Kiddle were both hit on the back with stones, and I had my shin grazed. Only some 50 people followed us outside the town, shouting and throwing stones. So far as I could see they were all Wa. Unluckily, our ponies were ahead of us and were allowed to go loose by the grooms. They galloped on after one of the Burmans, who was mounted and fled as hard as his pony's legs could go. Major Kiddle, Mr. Sutherland and myself and the *ch'ai kuan* were left alone. Mr. Sutherland was in bad health and faint from a blow of a stone, and could not go above a foot's pace. I caught my pony about a quarter of a mile out of the town, and tried to hoist Mr. Sutherland on to it, but the animal shied and Mr. Sutherland slipped off on to the ground. While we were helping him to rise, the beast bolted. We then passed a bit of jungle and the Wa had diminished to about 20. I do not think any of us imagined they had murderous intent or wanted to do more than drive us away. But, a few yards on, we came to an

open piece of grass and some more Wa came up and guns were fired. Major Kiddle was wounded in the back by a cross-bow and the Chinese N.C.O. was wounded in several places, and Mr. Sutherland received a heavy stone in the ribs, which completely disabled him. I should mention that when coming through the jungle, I had said to Major Kiddle, "If they throw any more stones we must fire." He replied that he would not fire in any case. I urged him strongly to do so, when he said, "If there is firing to be done you are the person to do it," and gave me his gun. While this was going on, we were both supporting Mr. Sutherland along as best we could, and the Chinese N.C.O. with great bravery walked beside us with a drawn sword keeping off the Wa. It is due to him that Major Kiddle and Mr. Sutherland were not killed sooner. On arriving at the grass, Mr. Sutherland, being completely unable to walk, I suddenly heard a man say "ta," i.e. "kill," and then some 15 others; they advanced on us with swords. I was about to fire on the leading man when I received a stone in my stomach, and another which hit me with great force on the jaw. I remember trying to keep my feet and staggering some yards, the earth and sky going round and round. I then fell, and lost my senses probably for 30 seconds or more. I remember thinking I was in camp. When I came to, I saw a number of Wa hacking at the heads of Major Kiddle and Mr. Sutherland, who were apparently dead already. I heard no cries. Mr. Sutherland was underneath, with Major Kiddle's body lying across his. I was about 25 yards from them, and the gun was on the ground near me, and the *ch'ai kuan* was doing his best to keep the Wa back. One tall Wa came out from the group towards me with a sword. I reached for the gun and shot him in the stomach. He reeled back, and I staggered to my feet. The Wa seem to have made no further attempt to attack me, as they were busy with the bodies of those they had already slain. I have a faint recollection staggering along the road with the N.C.O. and finally reaching the signalling camp, 3½ miles from here, but everything that happened between the time I was wounded and the time I reached the Sikhs is very blurred and confused in my mind. However, I put it down, to the best of my ability."

[Major Saunders with the detachment returned to Mengka from Meng Tum at mid-day, bringing the bodies. Arrangements for burial on a knoll, with pagoda on it, north of the village, were made immediately, and the burial took place at four o'clock.]

DESTRUCTION OF THE NEW HONGKONG BANK BUILDING AT PEKING.

The following details were published in a *North China Daily News* extra on the 14th inst.:

"News has been received by wire that the new Hongkong Bank building at Peking is on fire and is expected to be a total loss. Everything in the office has been saved, including documents, notes, etc., etc."

This news was received by us from the Shanghai branch of the Bank, and we learn that a later telegram announced that the building was completely gutted, all the books, documents, cash, etc., being saved. By the kindness of the manager of the Imperial Bank of China, the business of the Bank is being temporarily carried on there, two members of the Tientsin staff having gone up to Peking to assist Mr. Tweed. Mr. Hillier, the manager, has gone home on leave, and Mrs. Hillier and her two children are fortunately in Shanghai. Mr. Brent, the other member of the Peking staff, arrived at Shanghai on leave on Tuesday, and is returning this morning, with Mr. Stabb, of the Shanghai office. It is presumed that Mr. and Mrs. Hillier, Mr. Tweed, and Mr. Brent have lost everything, and the whole of the furniture is also burnt.

The Bank, which was only opened last year, a banquet being given at which most of the Foreign Representatives with H. E. Li Hung-chang and a number of high Chinese officials were present, was by far the handsomest foreign building in Peking. It covered a large area on Legation Street and had three floors, the offices and junior mess being on the ground

floor, the manager's residence on the first floor, with the servant's quarters and a large godown above. It was very solidly constructed of brick and hard wood with special reference to the danger of fire in the dry climate of Peking, and was lighted by electricity. The building cost Tls. 77,000, it and the furniture being fully insured, mainly in the Hongkong Fire and China Fire. The fire is reported to have broken out in the servant's quarters on the upper floor, but there are some suspicions that it was due to incendiarism, the Conservative element in Peking having expressed great disgust at the height of the structure, which towered over all the buildings in the neighbourhood, its only rival being the new Austrian Legation just completed.

THE MURDER OF AN INDIAN SOLDIER.

At the Magistracy on the 20th inst. Gheba Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, was charged on remand with the wilful murder of Lance-Sergeant Ghulam Hassam, of the same Regiment. Mr. Bowley appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Wilkinson for the defence.

Mr. Hazeland, assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, said that last week he went over to the barracks of the Hongkong Regiment at Kowloon to make a plan of the rooms. He was shown No. 4 room of D block, and produced a plan of the same, showing the positions of the different beds in the room.

Jewan Khan, recalled, said he saw the prisoner strike the deceased through the window. He had his rations with him and he went into the room and put them away. He then went to look at the deceased. The man was then lying down on a bed and was unconscious. He had no turban on. There was a pillow under the man's head. A little time after he saw blood flow from the deceased's nostrils. Witness and three other men carried the deceased to the Hospital at the direction of the Subadar. He identified the bed-clothing produced as being that on which the deceased lay. They carried the deceased to the hospital and stayed there until he died.

Gulam Ali, of the Hongkong Regiment, and Inspector Macdonald also gave evidence, and the hearing was further adjourned.

THE MILITARY TATTOO AT HEADQUARTER HOUSE.

H.E. Major-General and Mrs. Gascoigne entertained a large number of guests at Headquarters House on Monday night, to witness a grand military tattoo. The assemblage was select and representative of the community, amongst the visitors being H.E. Sir Henry and Lady Blake, and Miss Blake, Viscount Suidale, Colonel the O'Gorman, D.A.A.S., Rt. Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Hoare, Rt. Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, Sir John Carrington, Kt., D.C.E. C.M.G., Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Commodore and Mrs. Powell and the Misses Powell, many Army and Navy officers, representing every branch of the services, the members of the Consular Corps, the officers of the Hongkong Volunteers, numerous civilians, and many ladies.

The company assembled at 8.30, when the tattoo commenced, the massed bands of the Welch Fusiliers and Hongkong Regiment taking up their position on the lawn in front of the house. The gardens were prettily decorated with Japanese lanterns and the soldiers marching with and surrounding the various bands also carried Japanese lanterns. The entertainment was novel and picturesque, the soldiers being clad in their full-dress uniforms, and the light from the many-coloured lanterns showing the scarlet groups and illuminating the the surrounding shrubbery. The musical arrangements were under the control of Mr. J. H. Moir, the Bandmaster of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, to whom much praise is due for such an excellent programme. The Drums and Fife of the Fusiliers also took an active part, as also did the Pipers and Drums of the Royal Asiatic Artillery. The non-commissioned officers of the Hongkong Regiment gave a wonderful sword dance around a large bonfire, and several of them individually performed some very clever sword exercises. The entertainment was thor-

oughly enjoyed and at the conclusion of the programme the guests partook of supper, thoughtfully provided by Mrs. Gascoigne. Captain the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, the General's aide-de-camp, was indefatigable in superintending the entertainment and looking after the wants of the guests.

The following was the programme, most efficiently carried out by the fine bands of the two Regiments here:—

PART I.

ASSEMBLY OF BANDS.

Welsh	Men of Harlech
Irish	St. Patrick's Day
Scotch	Highland Laddie
English	British Grenadiers
Colonials	Bonds of Friendship

March	"Rienzi,"	Wagner
	By Massed Bands.	
Selection	"Mikado,"	Sullivan
	By Massed Bands.	

Indian War Dance	
	By Native Officers, Hongkong Regiment.

PART II.

British Army Quadrilles	Jullien
	By Massed Bands.

INTRODUCTION.

The Encampment (night), Patrols going the Rounds, All's Well Reveille, Camp in Motion, Fall in.

Bands Playing in Camp.
Music of the Artillery at Field Exercises.

Band Playing in Camp.

INTRODUCTION TO NO. 5.

Go to Bed Tom. Troops leave Camp.
Enemy Advancing. Charge.
Alarm Calls. Return of Regiments to Camp.

Advancing on the Enemy.

The Return.

See the Conquering Hero Comes.

Grand Military Tattoo	Saro
	By Massed Bands.

Gun Fire.

1st Post and Return of Regiments to Camp.
Trumpets and Bugles for Tattoo.

Tattoo.

Garotte	Theodora	Jones
Musical Conductor	J. H. Moir, Bandmaster,	R.W.F.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

On Wednesday afternoon the annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was made by H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., who was accompanied by H.E. the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) the Hon. Colonel of the Corps, Col. the O'Gorman, and others. The large increase in numbers which has taken place in the Corps during the last 12 months necessitated the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay being substituted for the Parade Ground in Queen's Road. Quite a large number of people were assembled to witness the inspection, and the Polo Ground being particularly well adapted for the purpose, the spectators had a capital view of the manoeuvres. The total number on parade was 262, including 19 officers. Last year there was a total muster of 134. Lieut.-Col. Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., is Commandant, Major Chapman is second in command; and Captain W. S. C. Bland, R. A., Adjutant and Quarter-Master. The Major-General closely inspected the men, after which the latter marched past twice with the guns. It will be seen that His Excellency was well satisfied with what he saw.

The MAJOR-GENERAL, in addressing the Corps, complimented the Commandant on the appearance of the men. He did not hesitate to say that the difference between this year and last year was very remarkable. It was a source of great pride to him to know that the Corps had nearly doubled its strength during his command. When he said that he was taking no credit to himself. He recognised fully that he had very little share in bringing this about. The patriotic spirit which was responsible for this increase was engendered first of all by the troubles in the hinterland and it was fostered by the crisis in South Africa. He was very much pleased by the patriotic offer made by the Corps to go to South Africa. Although the num-

bers were necessarily small he felt it his duty to recommend that the offer should be forwarded home. He did not mind saying to them now that personally he was very glad the offer was not accepted. The Volunteers were now a distinct factor in the defence of Hongkong. The Garrison at Hongkong was none too large, and he rejoiced to think he had the Volunteers with him. As regarded the inspection itself he was very much pleased with the Corps during the year. He had seen them drill and he had seen them manoeuvre. With regard to the number of absentees, he had had a large acquaintance with Volunteers, and he knew the difficulties which sometimes were experienced. But he hoped employers of labour would not forget that the general inspection was the one inspection of the year at which there should be no absentees, except on account of sickness. The inspection meant a great deal. It meant pulling the regiment together, and it was important that every man should join in the ranks on that day. The present was a great time for Volunteers. The war in South Africa had shown them the part Volunteers would play. They had seen the work done by their opponents, who were practically all Volunteers. They saw the Colonial Volunteers and the English Volunteers fighting side by side. Therefore this was a time when Volunteers would come to the front. There was no question about it that the Volunteers would be brought forward more prominently in the future than in the past, and employers of labour would have to choose one of two things; they would have to give facilities to their men to drill and train themselves, or those facilities would have to be insisted upon by the Government. Touching on the name "Field Battery," His Excellency remarked that he thought it would be wiser to adopt the name "Mountain Battery." It seemed to him that would be more applicable to the wants of Hongkong. This was a matter which he proposed to lay before His Excellency the Governor. In conclusion His Excellency observed that if the excellent spirit maintained during the past year continued during the present year he should be amply satisfied.

Sir John Carrington announced that Sergeant-Drummer Brown and Sergeant Northcote were entitled to Major Gordon's prizes for putting in the most drills.

The men then formed up on the guns and marched back to Headquarters, where they were dismissed.

THE VENGEANCE OF THE EMPRESS.

We give below the text of the Imperial Edict of the 9th inst. against the Hanlins. We are indebted to the *North China Daily News* for the translation and comments.

9th March.

(1) We have received a memorial from the Chancellor of the Hanlin Academy and his colleagues, denouncing the conduct of certain members of this learned body of literates. The Hanlin Compiler Kuei Tu (Manchu) is charged with having pocketed Government money granted to him to encourage international commerce; a task which, up to the present moment, the accused Compiler can show nothing for, thereby wasting the public funds. The said Kuei Tu is hereby handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of an adequate penalty. The Hanlin Compiler, Chou Hai-en, now on leave of absence at his home (in Soochow) is charged with having been boastful and arrogant in conduct and speech, regardless of the dignity due to his high rank. He is hereby commanded to send in his resignation and he is further ordered to be placed under the strict surveillance of the local authorities of his native town. The Hanlin Compiler, Ch'ei Ting, a native of Hunan, is accused of being crafty, low, and false; a man addicted to unorthodox and pernicious doctrines. A book, of which he was the author, commenting on the government, is charged with containing many treasonable ideas. He is hereby ordered to be cashiered, and the Hanlin Academy is further commanded to hand the accused to the Board of Punishments to be sent under guard to his native province, the Governor of which shall imprison him for life in the provincial gaol.

The same sentence is hereby awarded the Hanlin graduate, Wu Shihsao (a native of Yunnan) whose nature is charged with being the same as the cashiered Hanlin Compiler Ch'en Ting aforesaid. With reference to the Hanlin Compiler Shên P'eng who, after making his extraordinary and crazy charges (against Jung Lu and Kang Yi) left Peking for his native city of Ch'angshu (near Soochow) and who has been reported by acting Viceroy Lu Ch'uan-lin to have already been arrested, we hereby command that the said Shên P'eng be also imprisoned for life in the provincial gaol in Soochow. The three Hanlins last mentioned especially deserve their punishment owing to their disreputable and ungentlemanly conduct. Finally we command the Chancellor of the said Academy to carefully watch the conduct and characters of the other members of the Academy and denounce such as deserve to be punished.

Note.—The above five Hanlins, one Manchu and four Chinese, are all noted members of the Reform Party, the unequal punishments awarded the last three being due to the fact that the latter gloried in being friends of Kang Yu-wei. Although the Manchu Hanlin was only handed over to the Board, the probabilities are that he also will be cashiered or at least degraded several steps, which will amount to the same thing.—*Translator.*

"THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY."

LECTURE BY CONSUL VOLPICELLI.

On the 15th inst, Consul Volpicelli (Italian Consul) delivered a lecture in the City Hall, under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on "The Trans-Siberian Railway; its commercial and political importance." There was a good attendance.

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works) occupied the chair. In his opening remarks he said he felt it an honour and a pleasure also to be asked to take the chair that evening when his friend Consul Volpicelli was going to lecture on a subject which was of immense interest to all of them. In these days everybody who could travel travelled. Times had changed very much in that way. Facilities of travel were very much greater than they were 20 years ago, and the necessity for travelling had become so much greater. That being the case a description of a new route by which to proceed from the Far East to Europe must be of very great interest to them all, not only the description such as one could read in books on the subject of Siberia and the Siberian Railway, but the personal recollections of one who had travelled by that line. He had heard it said that the average man knew very little about Siberia. They probably knew more about Central Africa and of such places as Zanda than of the great cities which had grown up in the centre of Siberia. He believed that before long people would, in thinking of a visit to Europe, not only have, as they now had, the choice of two or three steamer routes, but also the possibility of travelling by that great railway. In fact he believed there was at least one person at present in Hongkong who would, before long, proceed home through Siberia, and to him no doubt the lecture would prove of especial interest.

Consul VOLPICELLI then delivered his lecture, which was illustrated by a large map prepared by the Hon. R. D. Ormsby. It was in 1897 that the Consul made his journey across Russia, leaving Shanghai on the 3rd of July. He gave graphic descriptions of the places visited by him, including Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Blagovieschensk, Mitrofanova, Chita, Irkutsk and other places. In conclusion he said that this great railway was a very important undertaking, and to give them an idea of the importance of the line he would give them a few figures. The railway was generally considered a military line. The general idea was that it was set-off to the Japanese fleet. The Japanese built a fleet and the Russians built a railway. But he thought that that was not altogether the case. They must consider that Siberia was divided into three zones—a zone which could be cultivated, a forest zone, and a polar zone. This railway line ran through the zone fit for cultivation. In western Siberia there was a mountainous region ten times the size of Switzerland, and a zone fit for cultivation almost as large as

Germany. And then there was the forest zone and the polar zone. If they went to eastern Siberia they had another zone fit for cultivation which was almost as large as Germany. Altogether in this zone fit for cultivation they had an area about three times that of Germany. Considering that Germany could support a population of 50 millions, they could easily admit that a hundred millions could live there, because they had besides the forest zone, which was about eleven times the size of Germany, and though this forest zone seemed at present to be considered uninhabitable, the Russians said very justly that at the time of Tacitus Germany was supposed to be unfit for habitation for a similar reason. All this country was to be opened up by this railway and that was where the real importance of the railway came in. The Russians were taking care to provide the people to cultivate these vast tracts of land. To facilitate this railway rates were very cheap, people being able to travel 6,000 miles for the equivalent to \$8.

A hearty vote of thanks to Consul Volpicelli for his interesting lecture concluded the proceedings.

THE THEATRE.

"THE GEISHA" AT THE CITY HALL.

Not many "Japanese" plays have been seen on the English stage, and the few that have as a rule make no pretensions to be realistic. There was that delightful burlesque-opera "The Mikado," in which, of course, the local colour was taken from a fan-and-pottery Japan; "The Geisha"; and later "The Moonlight Blossom," which did lay some claim to actuality, though it only ended in being unconvincing and was saved by the beauty of its mounting under Mr. Forbes Robertson's supervision. Apart from these we can recall no Japanese play—and only two Chinese, one a dramatic gem—"The Cat and the Cherub," by C. B. Fernald—and the other the musical comedy "San Toy," still running in London. Now "The Geisha" does not claim to be a picture of Japanese life, while, on the other hand, it is not of "The Mikado" school. It is only the ordinary musical comedy with its scenery and colour taken from the man-in-the-street's conception of Japan. But the music being light and tuneful and the libretto of fair merit, "The Geisha" made itself a popular favourite in a short time, and its popularity continues out of London. Having seen it last in what Robert Louis Stevenson calls "the city of encounters, the Mecca of the West—or, to be more precise, the northern pavement of Leicester Square," we are glad to be able to welcome "The Geisha" again in another quarter of the world.

To a well-filled on Thursday evening the Dallas Musical and Dramatic Company gave a fourth performance of "The Geisha." The piece went exceedingly well, and the company were well entitled to the repeated plaudits of the audience. The musical portion of the play was much better rendered than on the opening night, the band and vocalists working more in unison. On witnessing the performance of the Dallas Company it can be easily realised why "The Geisha" was so successful at home. The music is bright and some of the solos, "Chinchiu Chinaman," "Polly winked his eye," "Star of my Soul" and "Jack's the Boy," are already well-known to those who have not witnessed the comedy and are of abiding popularity.

As *Wun-hi*, Mr. Dallas was the comedian of the evening, and though the descent from his fine representation in "The Sign of the Cross" to that of the portrayal of the wily Chinese proprietor of the Tea House, in "The Geisha" may not be pleasing yet one is compelled to admire his wonderful dramatic versatility. Mr. Dallas had a good part, and he made the most of it, his former visit to China enabling him to do justice to his lines, his flow of "pidgin English" being extensive and entertaining. It was pleasing to notice that to Mr. J. 3. Ferrell was assigned a leading part, he representing the *Marquis Imari*. "Dad's" performance (he is better known by that cognomen amongst dramatic and Press circles in the east than any other) was one of the best in the play, and was a character which no other member of the company could

so well have portrayed. Mr. Ferrell's representation was a distinct success, and the veteran actor came in for a good share of the applause. The singing by Miss Muriel Alleyne, who took the title rôle, was most charming and was a revelation to most of those present. She possesses a fine mezzo-soprano voice, which has been carefully trained. Her enunciation was perfect and her singing most regular. She was repeatedly recalled. The part of *Lieut. Fairfax* was taken by Mr. Arthur Percival, a young man with a good presence, who takes his part in a manly way typical of the class he represents. He has several good solos allotted to him, most of which are fairly well rendered, especially "Jack's the Boy" but he is apt occasionally to get ahead of the music and sing flat. Especially was this noticeable in "Star of my Soul." He has a good baritone voice which might with more training, be used to much better advantage and though the tremolo is no doubt very effective when artistically used, it is apt to weary when continued through the song, and certainly interferes with Mr. Percival's articulation. He might do well to study the singing of Miss Alleyne. Miss Madge Grey had only a minor part to fill, and the pleasure of witnessing her performance in a leading rôle may be left to a subsequent piece. Miss Florence Peel deserved much credit for her graceful dancing, and was recalled on each occasion. The other characters of the piece were all well taken, but the choruses here and there might have been dispensed with. The costumes worn were most pretty, and evidently costly.

ENTERTAINMENT ON U.S.S. "MONADNOCK."

The U.S.S. *Monadnock* was tastefully decorated on Friday evening last on the occasion of a performance given by the Minstrel and Vaudeville Entertainment Company. Among those who patronised the entertainment were: Commodore Powell, Consul-General and Mrs. Wildman, Lieutenant Hobson, Commander J. C. McLean, Lieut. Commander Burgdorf, Mr. W. Whaley, Mr. W. B. Walker, Mr. J. Goodchild, a number of the European staff of the Kowloon Docks, members of the Warrant Officers' Club and the Engineers' Institute, and a number of ladies. Not only were the visitors provided with a capital programme, but they were most hospitably entertained in other respects, and the generally expressed opinion was that the evening had been a most enjoyable one. The programme opened with a minstrel performance, when the following items, interspersed with jokes, were given:—Sentimental, R. W. White; "Rag Time," Howard and Coleman; "You'll have to choose another baby now," G. B. Coleman; "The Wandering Minstrels," White and Frohwein; Sentimental, G. D. Lang; Comic Ditty, T. A. Mac Mahon; Professional Dancing, M. F. Washington. A most effective tableau followed, J. F. Craig impersonating Columbia, J. J. Martin the U. S. Army, and A. F. Gent the U. S. Navy. An amusing conjuring exhibition was given by Professor G. B. Coleman, assisted by R. Heye, Lally and Tyrell gave a short boxing show, G. F. Cross acting as referee, and Coleman and Howard contributed a laughable sketch entitled "The Musical Mokes in the Haunted House," with R. Heye as ghost. M. Schmidt, "our own original ikie," appeared next, and after him came another sketch, "Burlesquing Patti, a manager stranded in Hongkong," in which the characters were taken as follows:—The Manager, J. A. Howard; Pete, I. W. Spinny; Dummy Joe, Straub; Booth, G. F. Cross; Kernell, M. F. Washington; Black Patti, C. L. Siefert. "Scenes on the Plantation," and a man-o'-war cake walk were given by the entire company, Coleman, Howard, Frohwein, Straub, Cross, Siefert, Gibson, Martin, White, Lang, McMahon, Washington, Craig, Heye, Lally, Bessant, Morrow, Schroed, Wetherbee, Schmidt, Gentsch, Spinny (as the toughest coon in town). The last item on the programme was "The Girl in Red," by E. J. Gibson. The following were the managers, etc.: General manager, J. P. Morton; business manager, G. B. Coleman; stage manager, J. A. Howard; property manager, J. J. Martin; treasurer, W. M. Gulick; electrician J. Johnson; sage carpenter A. F. Gentch; interlocutor, G. F. Cross; Bones, J. A. Howard and R. W. White;

Tambes, G. B. Coleman and P. Frohwein. As the visitors steamed off for home hearty cheers were given for the *Monadnock*. We understand that it is probable the performance will be repeated in the City Hall in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The results of the examinations held in December last in connection with the London College of Music are announced. The candidates in pianoforte playing were examined by Mr. A. G. Ward and Maestro A. Galluzzi, of the Royal College of Music, Naples. The Theory papers were sent to England for examination.

In the following lists, the schools to which the candidates belong, or their teachers, are denoted by letters placed after the names, thus, —Mr. Emil Danenberg (D.) Italian Convent (I.C.), Mr. A. G. Ward (W.).

PIANOFORTE PLAYING.

ADVANCED SENIOR SECTION.

First Class.—Emily Angell (*Honours*) (I. C.)
Serene Mehta (D.)

SENIOR SECTION.

First Class.—Florence Shaw (*Honours*) (W.),
Adelina A. Wilson (*Honours*) (W.), Petronilla M. L. da Roza (D.), Maria A. Hyndman (D.)

INTERMEDIATE SECTION.

First Class.—Elizabeth Best (*Honours*) (I. C.),
Nina Rozario (*Honours*) (I. C.), Alfred F. Sheffield (*Honours*) (D.), Mary Guterres (I. C.)
Second Class.—Grace H. Wilson (W.), Emma Kingsley (I. C.), Mary White (I. C.)

ELEMENTARY SECTION.

First Class.—Eva Rodger (*Honours*) (D.), Philip George Hendley (*Honours*) (D.)
Second Class.—Katie Euanon (I. C.), Florence Hopwar (I. C.), Maggie Hurley (I. C.), Maggie Brewster (I. C.), Evelyn Hopwar (I. C.)

THEORY.

SENIOR HONOURS SECTION.

First Class.—Ruby Ley Kum (W.)

INTERMEDIATE SECTION.

First Class.—Serene Mehta (D.)

Second Class.—Florence Shaw (W.), Adelina A. Wilson (W.)

JUNIOR HONOURS SECTION.

First Class.—Aida M. Alves (D.), Petronilla M. L. da Roza (D.), Emily Angell (I. C.)

ELEMENTARY SECTION.

First Class.—Elizabeth Kingsley (I. C.), Eva Hurley (I. C.), Maggie Hurley (I. C.)

The *BELLIOS MEDAL* for girls is awarded to Miss E. Angell, of the Italian Convent; that for boys is not awarded.

Prizes are awarded to F. Shaw, E. Best and Eva Rodger.

WATKINS LIMITED.

On the 17th inst. at noon, the first ordinary general meeting of Watkins, Limited, was held at the offices of the company in Queen's Road Central. The General Managers (Messrs. G. A. Watkins and Chan A. Fook) were present, Mr. Watkins presiding, and also the following gentlemen, representing 6,640 shares:—Messrs. J. R. Michael, K. W. Mounsey, H. Varrelmann, E. T. Skertchly, T. Yule and Chow Hon Wah. The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will follow the usual course adopted at meetings of this kind and take the report and accounts, which have been in your hand, for some days, as read. Your General Managers are gratified at being able to lay before you what they consider a very favourable report for the year 1899. We have a sum of \$15,022 nett profit on the year's working available for distribution, which we recommend should be dealt with in the following manner. Pay shareholders a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the company, absorbing \$8,000; carry forward the balance of \$7,022.43 to a new profit and loss account. This we trust will be acceptable to you all. We have entered on another year under favour-

able auspices, the returns for January and February being highly satisfactory; those of March give promise of being equally so. Our aerated water factory in Mason's Lane is being fitted up with the best and modern machinery procurable in England. We have secured the services of Mr. McLaughlin, who arrived from England 1st January, who, besides being a fully qualified pharmaceutical chemist, has had extensive experience in the manufacture of aerated waters. We have purchased a steam launch suitable for our harbour work, and in the course of a few weeks shall be turning out mineral waters of a quality unsurpassed by any in the Orient. Before proposing the adoption of the report and passing the statement of accounts, I shall be happy to answer any questions you may desire to ask.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL, in seconding, said he thought the report and accounts would commend themselves to the shareholders. In his opinion they were very favourable when they considered that the capital of the company was not subscribed until late in the year. The General Managers had been untiring in their endeavours to promote the business of the company, and so long as they continued to give their full attention to it there would be no fear as to the results continuing to be as satisfactory and of a progressive and improving nature.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Michael for his kind remarks, and added:—"I only hope that when we have the pleasure of meeting next year we will be in the position of declaring a very much more satisfactory dividend. That is all the business, gentlemen. I have to thank you for your attendance here this morning. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday."

THE QUEEN MINES, LIMITED.

The first ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at noon on the 22nd inst at the company's offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present: Messrs. C. Ewens, S. Rustomjee (consulting committee), A. H. Mansell, W. D. Sutton, D. W. Craddock, and Tan Chan Pak.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I will with your permission adopt the usual course and take the report and statements of accounts as read. The accounts speak for themselves, and I do not think require any additional explanation from me. Our year's work, I am sorry to say, has not been marked by good fortune, and up to the present time, though prospecting has been steadily going on, we have as yet had nothing very encouraging reported to us. The latest report from the mine is contained in a telegram from our mining manager received a few days ago, which reads thus:—"At the 400 feet level have driven 265 feet. The winze has been sunk 70 feet; there is no improvement. We are driving south level 200 feet. The average width of lode, which is 3 feet 6 inches, assays 5 dwts. per ton. The face improves as we go on. It is my intention push on in this level as soon as possible." It appears by this that our most promising level at present is the 200 feet south, and in a letter received this morning from Mr. Roberts speaking of this level, he says:—"The men taken from the winze have been set to work extending this level, which is the only part of the mine in which we can find any formation that presents an encouraging prospect. The work corresponds in a measure with that which we started in the Eureka eight or nine months ago, and it is to be hoped that it will be attended with the same satisfactory result. The ground in which we are driving has not been previously prospected, even at the surface." This looks rather more hopeful, and you will notice that Mr. Roberts speaks of the ground on which they are now driving not having been previously prospected, and in the last telegram we are informed that the face improves as they go on. They are evidently on gold, so we may at any time hear of more favourable developments. It appears, gentlemen that the only course we can pursue is to keep steadily on and hope for the best, and I can assure you we have every confidence that our managers in Australia will do all in their power to arrive at satisfactory results. I

shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability that any shareholders would like to put.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. MANSKILL seconded and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the Report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Hotel at noon, on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1900.

To the Shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with Section 53 of the Company's Articles of Association, the directors beg to submit their half-yearly report for the six months ended the 31st December, 1899.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account for the half-year amounted to \$77,183.11, as compared with \$62,809.94 for the corresponding six months of 1898, showing an increase of \$14,373.17.

The profit and loss account including a credit balance of \$15,448.85 brought forward from 30th June, 1899, shows a credit balance of \$90,285.33, which your directors propose to deal with as follows:—

To write off furniture and fixtures	\$15,000.00
To place to reserve fund	15,000.00
To pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year, absorbing	60,000.00
To carry forward to new account	285.33
	\$90,285.33

The dividend, with the 6 per cent. paid for the previous half-year, gives a return of 16 per cent. on the paid-up capital for the year.

LAUNCH.

The old launch was sold at a profit of \$2,000 over its book value, and a new and more suitable boat has taken its place.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and E. Osborne retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell, whose re-election is recommended.

EDWARD OSBORNE,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

LIABILITIES		\$	c.
Capital—			
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)	600,000.00		
1,000 mortgage debentures at \$50 each	500,000.00		
Accounts payable	24,513.73		
Unclaimed dividends	749.50		
Balance at credit of repairs and renewals account	6,143.35		
Reserve fund	30,000.00		
Profit and loss account	90,285.33		
		\$1,251,691.91	
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Value of land and buildings as per last report:—			
Marine lot No. 3, and remaining portion of marine lot No. 3	\$372,045.60		
Remaining portion of marine lot No. 7	368,108.20		
Praya Reclamation	22,481.02		
		762,634.82	
Value of furniture and fixtures as per last report	115,239.99		
Less written off, as recommended in last report	15,000.00		
	100,239.99		
Since added	38,214.74		
		138,454.73	
50 Hongkong Hotel Company's mortgage debentures at \$500 each	275,000.00		
Shares in public companies	7,033.81		
Stocks of wines, &c., provisions, household sundries, coal and stationery	26,713.57		
Licences attaching to 1900	623.00		
Accounts receivable	18,183.88		
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	13,558.76		
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation No. 2 account	764.70		
Cash in hand	274.64		
New steam launch (instalments paid to date)	8,500.00		
		\$1,251,691.91	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Dr.	\$	c.
To bad debts and refunds.....	610.30	
To rates	2,840.50	
To half-year's interest on debentures (\$500,000 at 3 per cent.)	15,000.00	
To interest account	120.23	
To directors' and auditors' fees	1,700.00	
To fire insurance	1,093.88	
To Crown rent	470.87	
To balance, to be appropriated as follows:—		
To write off furniture and fixtures \$15,000.00		
To reserve fund	15,000.00	
To dividend of 10 per cent.	60,000.00	
To carry forward to new account ..	285.33	
	90,285.33	

112,135.11

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from 30th June, 1899 \$91,448.85		
Less dividend of 6 per cent.	\$36,000.00	
Less transfer to reserve fund	15,000.00	
To written off furniture and fixtures account	15,000.00	
To set aside for repairs and renewals ..	10,000.00	
	76,900.00	

15,448.85

By rents of shops and offices, new building	2,840.00
By rents of shops and offices, old building	0,060.00
By interest on 550 Hongkong Hotel Company's debentures held by the Company (\$275,000.00 at 3 per cent.)	8,250.00
By dividends on shares	344.40
By profit on sale old steam launch	2,000.00
By bad debts recovered	8.75
By profit on Hotel working account for six months ending 31st December, 1899 ..	77,183.11
	112,135.11

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To payments on account of repairs and renewals during the half year ending 31st December, 1899	5,750.01	
To balance	6,143.35	
	11,893.36	

11,893.36

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance forward from 30th June, 1899 ..	1,893.36	
By amount set aside from profit and loss account ..	10,000.00	
	\$11,893.36	

\$11,893.36

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the General Agents, at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 29th March, 1900:—

The General Agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the Company's business for the year 1899, with a statement of accounts to 31st of December last.

In consequence of the larger production of sugar by the refineries in Japan, and of the increasing importation of European Beet Sugar into that and the other consuming markets in the east, the course of business was unfavourable during the year, and the working shows a nett loss of \$38,099.03, which sum the General Agents themselves pass to the credit of profit and loss account, thus starting the account without a debit on the 1st January.

After deduction of \$40,000 paid as an interim dividend on the 2nd September last, the sum at credit of equalization of dividend fund is \$260,000, out of which it is recommended that a final dividend of \$5 per share be paid, making \$7 for the year.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Bellios having resigned his seat on the 15th ultimo, the consulting committee now consists of Messrs. F. A. Gomes, A. Haupt, A. G. Wood, and D. M. Moses, of whom Messrs. Haupt and Wood do not offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and Fullerton Henderson, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

\$	c.
Paid-up capital	2,000,000.00
Equalization of dividend fund	\$300,000.00
Less—Interim dividend at 2 per cent. paid on 2nd Sept., 1899 ..	40,000.00
	260,000.00

2,242,691.10

Sundry creditors

\$4,502,691.10

ASSETS.

Property account, consisting of:—

East Point Refinery

Bowington Refinery

Swatow Refinery

Hongkong Distillery

Site at Soo-kun-poo

Cash

Raw and refined sugar, &c.

Spirits and rum, &c.

Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.

Sundry debtors

Shipments

Less advances

Balance of profit and loss account

\$4,502,691.10

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

To balance at debit on 31st

December, 1898

Less written off last year ..

To new machinery, &c.

\$1,494,157.64

By balance at date

\$1,494,157.64

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To commission

To remuneration to Consulting Committee ..

To auditors' fees

To interest account

\$73,503.15

Cr.

By balance of profit and loss account, carried

from last year

By gain on working

By balance

\$73,503.15

THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, IN LIQUIDATION.

The following is the communication addressed to the shareholders of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited, in Liquidation:—

Gentlemen,—As Mr. E. W. S. Morren is about to proceed to Europe and vacates his office as one of the Liquidators of the company from the 31st instant, and it has become necessary for us to call a meeting of the shareholders of the company to elect another Liquidator in his place, or to make other arrangements for carrying on the company's liquidation, we take the opportunity of placing before you statements of the liquidation accounts made up to 31st December, 1899, which speak for themselves.

We may however state that the reason for so large a sum appearing under "branch cash balances," is that the proceeds of the sale of Singapore and London office premises are included therein, the money having been collected in London just before the close of the year.

Since the 31st December, investments have been made as follows:—

In London £7,000. In Singapore, \$13,500.

It is too early yet to estimate what return of Capital it is probable Shareholders will receive, but we can venture to say that there appears to be no likelihood of a call being necessary.

All London, Continental and Australasian time risks and Sailer risks homeward from Australia have been reinsured, and the Hull risks in the Far East have either been reinsured or have run off.

The appointment of Mr. A. S. Murray, as Liquidator in London for a period of five months from 1st October, 1899, expired on the 28th February last, and for carrying on the Company's Liquidation here we have made arrangements on favorable terms with the South British Fire and Marine Insurance

Company to act in London as attorneys for the Liquidators, a course which we shall ask the shareholders to confirm.

A General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the office of Mr. G. A. Derrick, Gresham House, Battery Road, Singapore, on Thursday, the 29th day of March, 1900, at noon.

G. A. DERRICK,
EDWARD W. S. MORREN,
Liquidators.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Dr.

To capital

To unclaimed dividends

To sundry creditors

To mortgage of London premises

\$756,304.92

Cr.

By cash on current account with Bank

By cash in hands of cashier

By fixed deposits with Banks, Singapore ..

By freehold premises, Singapore ..

By furniture and stock

By sundry debtors

By branch cash balances

By agency cash balances

By fixed deposits with Banks, Australia ..

By Metropolitan board of works debentures, do

By freehold office premises, London

By balance of profit and loss account ..

Less balance of working account ..

\$193,071.17

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To premium account

Less reinsurance

Return premia

\$350,674.47

\$350,674.47

\$

By head office charges

By branch and agency charges

By compensation to staff

By agency commission

By directors', auditors' and committee's fees

By losses and claims account, 1899

By balance

\$350,674.47

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To balance of working account at 31st Decem-

ber, 1898

To interest and rent

To transfer fees

To balance

\$442,769.79

By balance of profit and loss account at 31st

December, 1898

By losses and claims account 1897 and pre-

vious years

By losses and claims account, 1898

By reinsurance and return premium account,

1898

By property charges

By exchange

\$442,769.79

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Dr.

To capital

To unclaimed dividends

To sundry creditors

\$605,984.60

Cr.

By cash on current account with Bank

By fixed deposits with Banks, Singapore ..

By furniture and stock

By sundry debtors

By branch cash balances

By agency cash balances

By balance of liquidation account

\$605,984.60

LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT.

To balance of working account at 30th Sep-

tember, 1899

To premia

To interest and rent

To transfer fees

To property charges

To profit on sale of property and investments

To balance

\$464,307.68

By balance of profit and loss account at 30th September, 1899	\$ 267,801.81
By head office charges	2,381.09
By branch and agency charges	12,189.16
By compensation to staff	55,054.36
By directors', auditors', and committee's fees	2,803.00
By agency commission	1,399.51
By return premia	2,253.74
By reinsurance and return premia, 1-98	2,037.21
By reinsurances	18,273.38
By losses and claims, 1897 and previous years	13,057.31
By losses and claims, 1898	9,002.87
By losses and claims, 1899	75,124.39
By exchange	214.40
By liquidators' fees	3,400.00
	\$464,897.08

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer (Sir Thomas Jackson) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund:—

Already Acknowledged	\$23,669.82
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	1,500
E. F. Ongcapin, Amoy	500
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	500
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	250
Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd.	200
J. D. Hutchison & Co.	100
Hon. E. R. Bellios, C.M.G.	100
F. Leyburn	100
J. H. Lewis	100
A. H. Chinoy	50
W. J. Saunders	50
Dr. A. Rennie	50
R. A. Dasturs	25
A. G. Stokes	25
Mr. Justice Wise	25
B. Taylor	20
S. B. F.	20
H. P. W.	20
A. B. A.	15
L. Gibbs	10
C. Mooney	10
Iram & Dastoor	10
C. B.	10
C. T. Kew	10
A. R. Griene	10
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	10
W. J. Southam	10
"Sandown"	5.10
Thawmal Nandiram & Co.	2
	\$ 27,406.92

TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

The Directors of the Tung Wa Hospital beg to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the fund for the extension of the Hospital &c:—

Already acknowledged	\$90,495.56
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	300
Chin Tseung	108
Mr. Chan Tss-yan	70
Wo Shing Hong	70
Sang Tai	29
Sau Lok-ting	20
Hang Kee Hong	20
Mr. Lam Sau-tung	20
Tak Lung On	15
Mr. Fan Pat-san	10
Cheong Hing	10

Total ... \$91,167.56

The launch of a new cruiser took place at Foochow on the 3rd inst. The ceremony had been delayed pending the arrival of the newly appointed Tartar-General, H.E. Shan Lien, who is also Imperial Commissioner of the Arsenal. The Kien Ngan, which is a sister-ship to the Kien Wei launched last year, was constructed from the designs of Monsieur Doyère, Director of the Mamoi Arsenal, and is pronounced in every way to be a success. At the ceremony were present, besides the Tartar-General, Admiral Fritze and staff, the Captain and principal officers of the Hansa, the Captain and the principal officers of the Jean Bart, Admiral Yeh of the Peiyang fleet, the Consul-General for Russia, the Consuls for France, Germany and Japan, the Vice-Consul for Great Britain at Pagoda, the Commissioner of Customs, a great many Chinese Mandarins, and, in spite of the inclement weather, a number of visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

CITY HALL LIBRARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS."

22nd March, 1900.

Sir,—The Committee of the City Hall has decided to keep the Library open in the evening instead of closing it at dusk as has been the practice hitherto.

In coming to this decision the Committee hope they may afford to those members of the community who are not members of any club or Library the opportunity of having a quiet read in an evening.

The Library is open free to all persons irrespective of race.

As the Committee have no fund with which to obtain current literature and periodicals for the Library they will be grateful to any who will send copies of magazines and newspapers to the Library.

Some friends have kindly promised to supply mail papers within a few days after the arrival of the mail, but more offers of the same nature are solicited.

Gifts of standard books will also be very acceptable.

It must be understood that the Library is not a lending Library but is only available for reading and reference.—I am sir, yours obediently,

F. B. L. BOWLEY,
Secretary.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 19th March.

H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang has received a telegram from Peking informing him that the Emperor has been pleased to confer on him the honour of the Imperial Double Dragon—a special insignia to be worn on his coat. Such a distinction only an Emperor or a member of Imperial family is entitled to wear. Upon receipt of the news all the mandarins went the Viceregal Yamen to pay their respects and offer congratulations.

Since he came to Canton to be Viceroy H.E. Li Hung-chang has certainly shown himself very energetic, and in all cases brought to his notice he has been prompt to deal with the offenders. He keeps the officials busy all the time, and the least faults have been severely reprimanded. The notorious pirate chiefs, Au San, Fo Tsan Hoi and others are so afraid of him that they keep in hiding in the mountain fastness. The Cantonese, indeed, begin to like him as a man of great experience and sound judgment. He has done a great deal and is expected to do more to replenish the Imperial coffers. He knows European manners, and is said by the natives here to be one of the best Viceroy's that ever came to Canton.

Feng Sui is a thing that no one can trace its origin, but it gives rise to many troubles and clan fights, and its votaries are so blind in the belief of its efficacy as to spend very often their entire fortune and sacrifice lives simply to gratify their superstitious whims. In the village of Kwan Suk, Chinghao district, the two clans Chan and Wong have never lived well together. In the fields of Wong there is a road close upon a tomb of the Chan clan. The other day as some farmers of the Wong clan were digging at the fields they cut away the road and little by little heaped the earth upon the tomb of Chan. The Chan clan attributed their misfortunes and ill-success in their literary examination and in business matters to this disturbance of their tomb and went to remonstrate with the Wong clan, asking Wong to make the road properly and repair the tomb. This Wong refused to do. From words they came to blows. Eventually each party got together several hundred persons armed with rifles, spears, and swords, and fought a pitched battle, four or five persons being killed and many wounded. Finally the magistrate of the district had to send soldiers to suppress the disturbance. The elders and chief villagers came

forward, and tried to bring about an amicable settlement, but in vain. Upon this matter being reported to the Viceroy he ordered the elders of the village to produce the ringleaders for trial and punishment.

In the East of Canton, there are three forts, named Chung Lao, Ting Kung, and Sui Un, erected for the protection of Canton. During last year in the time of the late Viceroy Tan, when most of the native troops were disbanded, and the expenses for fortifications, etc., were curtailed, these forts were very much neglected. H.E. Li ordered the same to be properly repaired and increased the number of soldiers to look after them, and soldiers are to be regularly drilled under Commandant Lao. Further, all the guard-boats in Canton are being repaired.

In the days when Fantan was carried on under the secret protection of the gentry of the neighbourhood, they used to receive so many dollars a day as hush-money; now, as the gambling is licensed by the Government, they give the gambling houses a lot of trouble. In the south and western part of the Samshui district the elders, gentry, and others who were accustomed to receive bribe as usual gathered together to the number of over one hundred persons, went to smash up the gambling houses and insisted upon closing them.

CANTON, 20th March.

On the 17th inst. a steam launch started from Canton for the district of Kunshan, having in tow a passenger-boat, in which a Californian merchant was one of the passengers for the festival of the dead. Among the passengers were seven pirates, dressed in uniforms of the Fat-shan regiment. When the launch reached the river Sheak Pik in Sam Sui the pirates began their work of plunder, taking out their revolvers and pointing them at the captain and crew to scare them. They then ransacked the luggage of all passengers and took all worth taking. When they came to the turn of the Californian merchant they found a cheque for \$1,000, made payable to order. They tried to force him to endorse it, which he refused to do. During this altercation the merchant got a chance of running across the steam launch and hoisting the flag of distress. It so happened at that time that the Custom's launch "Foo Mun" was steaming past; she stopped her engines, and her crew lost no time in boarding the boat and arresting the pirates. Stowing them into the hold of the boat they nailed up the hatch and took them in tow to Canton. On arrival at the custom's jetty it was reported to the Commissioner, who ordered the guards of customs and those of Shamsen, amounting to over one hundred men, to go and take the prisoners; but none of them dared to do so, for fear of the fire-arms of the pirates. At last a few brave foreign customs employes offered to venture into the hold. On breaking open the cover they jumped into it and found that out of seven pirates four had escaped by breaking a hole in the side and had swum away. The captors took hold of the remaining men by the queues, pulled them up and led them away as quiet as lambs to the great admiration of the crowd, and handed them over to the authorities.

A Church of England boarding school has been opened at Singapore under the management of Sister Catherine, who has managed in Rangoon and Madras similar institutions to the new St. Mary's Institution.

In extenuation of the vengeful decrees lately published in the Empress Dowager's name, says *The North China Daily News*, it is urged that they are not her work at all, but are the production of Kang Yi and one or two others of the reactionaries who have control of her pen at present; but that they are repugnant to Jung Lu, and will be annulled as soon as Viceroy Liu Kun-yi, who is now one of the strongest men in the Empire, can get the ear of his imperial mistress. H.E. Liu is old and not in very good health, but he is a very able man and very sound in his views, and he has at his back the latent strength of the most politically important province in China, the nursery of the great administrators. Hunan. We may add that rumours are rife in Nanking that the reactionaries there are planning to prevent H.E. Liu from getting an audience of the Empress Dowager at all.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Macao, 19th March.

There is not the slightest doubt that either the Chinese in the interior are preparing for a great revolution or else the pirates are increasing greatly in numbers. This is plain from the way things are going on in this colony. During the last year no less than twenty thousand Mauser rifles and a great quantity of ammunition and other war material were taken from this place inland. Then only a few days ago a German steamer came in with six thousand rifles, and a large stock of powder and ammunition, and it is said that all the arms have been sold. Great smuggling operations, therefore, must be going on at present. And yet it is the duty of our Government to see whether these arms are going and into whose hands they will fall. If disturbances break out we shall be the sufferers, especially as we have no force sufficient to face any sudden revolution. It is said that our Government is monthly requesting the authorities at Hongkong to allow exportation of arms in considerable quantities from Hongkong to Macao. To what end? To whom are these arms to be consigned? It is time for the Government to look at things seriously and to prevent any future mischief.

It is not only the desire of the Chinese Government not to let the population arm themselves, but also of the European powers, so that it is hard to see why our Government is so supine in the matter. Almost daily cases of piracy are reported, and day and night alike the bands rob right and left. What is the meaning of all this? The reply is easy to discover—Because they are well-armed and fear no foe. After the authorities have allowed so many arms to pass into China, it may now be too late to take them out again. But there is yet time to put a stop to this scandal. No doubt in every country there is a business in arms, but not on such a great scale and with such a future. I believe it is the duty of the Government of the Colony where such great business is going on to interfere and to know where those arms are taken. If the purpose is a loyal one the British Government will not be so scrupulous as not to let the arms get out from the Colony of Hongkong. Here everything "takes at ease don't care" who buys them and where they are taken. It is impossible to believe, but it is true that since last year up to now twenty thousand or more rifles, etc., have been sold in this Colony and yet the Government did not direct attention to the matter.

King Lien Shan's case is in the same condition as before and he is still at Monte Fort. It is said that the principal part of the case will take place at Shanghai and after that an adjournment will be made to our court for the verdict. Much official correspondence has been passing about the matter, and witnesses are being hunted up to prove that King took the money which he is alleged to have taken from the Telegraph Company.

On Friday evening a great fight took place between the police and a crowd of Chinese in a theatrical tent near the Chinese Hospital, many Chinese being wounded, as the police used their swords.

MANILA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MANILA, 13th March.

AN AMERICAN GARRISON AT THE MERCY OF THE INSURGENTS.—GUBAT IN FLAMES.

In the last letter attention was called to the smallness of the garrisons that are occupying the ports and districts of the southern islands. Last night news was brought to Manila confirming all the reasons that were given to show that the forces are inadequate. A merchant steamer arrived from Gubat with the startling news that the American garrison at that place was surrounded and probably now in the hands of the insurgents. The ship had no manifest or clearance papers, as she had run out of the port at the first signs of hostilities, and took with her all the Chinese and native refugees that could be accommodated. The master of the ship ex-

hibited a hastily written paper signed by the port commander, who is acting captain of the port and collector of internal revenue, in which he stated that he could give no clearance, as all the people in town were crowding aboard and his men were busy fighting the insurgents who were attacking in large numbers. The officer, who is a lieutenant, states that he had sixteen men in his command, and asked for reinforcements. The steamer sailed away and as she drew out to sea, fires broke out in many parts of the town and soon the place was in flames. The sounds of heavy firing were heard by the passengers.

Instead of going to Sorsogon or some of the near ports and telling of the disaster, the ship's officers apparently seem to have gone off their heads, for they came on to Manila without a stop. It is a good two days' trip and there is no telling what has become of the little detachment in the meantime. As soon as the news was reported at headquarters, General Otis telegraphed to the commander of the district ordering immediate reinforcements to proceed to Gubat.

Just such affairs as this one have been daily expected in many of the little garrisons whose duty it is to keep the peace in large and unpacified districts. The capture of one or two garrisons, no matter how small they may be, would be a splendid stroke for the insurgents and the result would be far reaching. In spite of this, affairs have come to a pass where the strength of the insurgents is laughed at and underestimated, while that of the Americans is very much exaggerated. Now and then numbers will tell, even though the bravest oppose them.

FREE STATE FOR JALO.

In view of the serious conditions that exist among the people of the Sulu Archipelago, free trade has been granted to the port of Jalo, to remain in force until December 31st of this year. It is expected that this change will relieve much of the present difficulty.

TO AID MINERS.

In the last bunch of general orders issued by the military governor, provision was made for the establishment of a mining bureau. Its management has been placed in the hands of Lieut. Burrill, a capable officer of the 11th U.S.V. Cavalry.

Later.

THE STORY OF GUBAT.

When reinforcements arrived at Gubat, where the American garrison was reported to have been severely attacked, they found the troops occupying the convent and controlling the water front. The insurgents and a semi-organized mob of balomen held the suburbs but did not venture into the centre of the town. The reports brought up by the passengers and officers of the steamer *Juno* appear to have been very much exaggerated, but that there was cause for fear was shown by the hundreds of Chinese and natives who crowded aboard the steamer.

After the Americans came, the people set properties on fire and also several buildings in the vicinity. The troops immediately turned out to suppress the disturbance, and the bursting of the bamboos played a lively second to the cracking of the rifles. A large portion of the population made all haste to get aboard the *Juno*, which was at anchor in the harbour, and as the American commander could not tell this stage of the game what sort of an attack was in progress, he asked for reinforcements. With these hasty details, somewhat embellished by repetition during the two days' trip to Manila, the *Juno's* captain entertained the Captain of the Port at Manila. In the meantime the Gubat fires had spread and smoke and noise attracted a crowd of insurgents and balomen who were lurking in the vicinity. Trouble ensued, in which several of the natives were laid up for repairs, but no casualties occurred among the Americans. Since reinforcements have been sent down, the simple folk of Gubat are very anxious to return and find out what things are left to them; so the first ship that sails for that port will very probably be as crowded as the last that left it.

THE MAYON VOLCANO.

Old Mayon is still in eruption, though very much subdued. The flow of lava is stopped and the rock and ashes have ceased to fall in any great quantities. However, smoke still curls

upward, and at night the subterranean fires are reflected on the heavy clouds that hang over the old volcano. During the first day, at a violent period of the eruption, some three hundred feet were blown off one portion of the crater and wonderful symmetry of the cone is somewhat marred, though to those who had not seen it before the defect would be scarcely noticeable. The ashes that so completely covered the country are rapidly disappearing and millions of little whirlwinds are spinning about the furrowed mountain sides, while angry rumblings and frequent quakings add to the excitement of insurrection.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG C.C. V. THE L. E. C.

The Hongkong C.C. made a good show against the L.E.C. on the 17th inst. The match was, however, not played out. The following is the score:—

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.	
J. Hooper, b. Larke	18
D. Wood, l.b.w. b. Mulliken	20
A. R. Lowe, c. Higgon, b. Mulliken	11
K. W. Mounsey, b. Johnson	41
A. G. Ward, b. Strong	9
F. O'B. Wilson, not out	40
J. A. Ross, b. Johnson	9
R. Hall, c. Langhorne, b. Johnson	0
Lt. Lewis, R.A., b. Strong	0
W. H. Howard, c. Mulliken, b. Langhorne	14
Extras	25

Total 187

THE LADIES' RECREATION CLUB.

Dr. Nimmo, R.N., c. Ross, b. Lowe	7
J. A. Higgon, R.W.F., b. Wilson	30
Dr. Tuck, R.N., c. and b. Wilson	16
Major Clarke, hit wkt. b. Wilson	5
H. Strong, not out	1
Extras	2

Total 61

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wickets.	N.B. Wickets.
Langhorne	6.2	—	17	—	1
Higgon	6	1	18	—	—
Mulliken	18	4	53	1	2
Johnson	3	—	21	—	3
Strong	8	2	15	—	2
Clarke	14	1	38	—	1

LADIES' RECREATION CLUB.

Lowe	7	—	21	—	1
Howard	13	6	15	—	—
Ross	12	4	19	—	—
Wilson	5.4	2	3	—	3

FOOTBALL.

THE FINAL TIE, HONGKONG

CHALLENGE SHIELD.

On the 17th inst. last the G and H Companies of the Royal Welch Fusiliers met in the Final Tie for the Hongkong Shield, G Co. being strong favourites owing to their display against the Engineers. The Happy Valley ground was rather slippery owing to a surface damp, but the numerous spectators witnessed a good game, in which the plucky play of H Co. preserved them for another match. G Co. certainly had a pull all through, and still more was this the case when H were practically a man short from an early point in the second half. The opening play was fairly level, but G Co. began gradually to get the better of the exchanges, and playing a more combined game, were leading at half-time by one goal to nil. The second half was far more exciting, and the game had not long been restarted when the prettiest piece of play of the afternoon was seen, H Co. taking the ball right down to the goal-line, where, when the ball seemed quite certain merely to roll behind, a wonderful centre enabled the non-favourites to draw level. This success infused a lot of energy into H Co., and though an accident rendered them virtually a ten-man team, they not only played out full time, but succeeded also in keeping their goal intact for an extra half-hour. Their defence was tried very sorely, but fine saves were repeatedly seen; and G, though they had all the better of the game, will have to wait for the reply to win. All the same time, with a strong left wing, H Co., would make strong bid for victory.

The Honorary Secretary of the Hongkong Challenge Shield Competition sends us the following notice:—

HONGKONG.

"The final tie will be replayed on Saturday, March 24th, at four o'clock. In the event of a draw an extra-half hour will probably be played. Arrangements are already in hand for making another entrance to the Club Stand, as it is found that spectators invariably take the seats nearest the entrance, thus rendering it necessary for late-comers to walk to the further end to find a seat.

"As several bicycles have been lost from the bicycle-stands a watchman will be stationed over them on Saturday next, but the Hongkong Football Club will not be responsible in any way for lost articles.

"The football season will be closed with the final on Saturday next. Early in April arrangements will be made for re-turfing portions of the ground, as, on account of the large number of matches, there has been considerable wear."

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB

The tenth Club Race was sailed on Sunday, the 18th inst., in the very lightest and most uncertain breezes experienced for a long time. There has seemed a sort of fatality this season, as far as the races for the Championship are concerned, for though it may blow hard up to Saturday night, all the Racing Sundays have been very calm, with light fluky airs, and Sunday last proved no exception to the rule. In the First Class, Chanticleer and Active were absentees, and in a light westerly air the remainder got away almost together. Maid Marion having the best of it and Gloria the worst, spinnakers being carried to port. Opposite the Docks the wind suddenly shifted to north and a nice little beat to Kowloon Rock resulted in the Bonito being first round by about a minute, Iris, and Maid Marion rounding together, with Erica and Gloria tailed off. The reach to Lyeemoon soon became a run as the wind drew most westerly, and then came in gentle puffs, at times almost dying away, and all the yachts drifted round the mark at Lyeemoon in a bunch. Hardly had they commenced to beat back when the wind came free again, and they all arrived at Kowloon Rock together, some having travelled along the North Shore, some the South, while others preferred the middle. The Dart and Meteor had picked up the first class boats near the Channel Rocks and sounded Kowloon Rock in company. The fleet drifted up to Channel Rocks again before the wind, where there was a good deal of jostling and cutting in, in which the Maid Marion was the chief sufferer, as, from having been first shortly before reaching the rocks, she was dead last and to leeward when all had rounded. On the reach back to the line, several changes took place. Bonito first going to the front, then Iris, then Maid Marion, but just at Blackhead's Pier Erica got her nose in front and managed to squeeze home in front, Maid Marion being second and Doreen outside just passing Iris on the post and gaining third place. The Dart poled herself up on the well-known rock near Blackheads, which Erica also touched, thus letting up the Payne, who snatched the first place from Meteor (who finished before all the first class boats) by a few seconds.

The official timing at the finish was:—

	First Class.				Total
	H.	M.	S.	Gained.	
Erica	4	21	11	10	24
Maid Marion ...	4	21	40	4	43
Doreen	4	21	59	1	19
Iris	4	22	15	—	23
Gloria	4	23	0	—	—
Bonito	4	23	7	—	33
Second Class.					
Meteor	4	19	47	1	53
Payne	4	23	35	10	17
Dart	4	23	45	4	57
Princess	4	24	38	—	7

French Indo-Chinese journals have been expressing some concern recently over the Draconian severity with which the French Customs Department has been punishing infringements by natives of the rules about contraband goods, and particularly alcohol. Some villages, it is complained, have been fined quite beyond their means and the head men have even been imprisoned on the ground that they must have been aware of the smuggling.

It is announced that Lieut. A. J. R. Greene, R.G.A., has been promoted to the rank of captain.

The annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding took place on the Polo Ground, Causeway Bay, on Wednesday afternoon last.

At the Magistracy on the 19th inst. a Chinaman residing at Cheung Chau Island was fined \$3.00 for being in possession of a quantity of raw opium. He had been twice convicted this year for a similar offence.

On Wednesday a coolie who was employed in coaling a steamer in the harbour was accidentally crushed to death. He was on the side of the cargo boat containing the coal when a launch came past and pushed the boat against the steamer. The deceased got jammed between and was killed.

On Saturday night Inspector Robertson and a party of police raided a house at 16, Quarry Bay, and found gambling going on there. They seized gambling implements and a large sum of money and made 15 arrests. At the Magistracy on the 19th inst. the two principals were fined \$50 each, or three months, and each of the others \$10, or a month.

At the Magistracy on the 21st inst. Au I, a blacksmith, residing at 36, Cochrane Street, was committed for trial for offering a bribe to a public servant, namely, J. Ross, of the Public Works Department. Proceedings were to be taken against the prisoner for a breach of the Water Ordinance, and when near the Central Police Station the prisoner offered Mr. Ross \$5 to square the matter.

The Universal Athletic Sports came off in the Happy Valley on the 18th inst. at 2 p.m. The principal events and winners were:—100 yards (13-18), D. Rumjahn, scratch, 13 sec.; 200 yards, D. Rumjahn, owes 4 yards, 33 sec.; Long Jump (13-18), D. Rumjahn, 15ft. 2in.; High Jump (13-18), D. Rumjahn, 4ft. 10in. Half Mile (14-18), Gulam, 2 min. 25 sec.; 600 yards (13-18), Gulam, owes 8 yards, 1 min. 40 sec.; Quarter Mile (13-18), A. R. Kadar, scratch, 1 min. 10 sec.; One Mile Bicycle Race, Heung Toe, scratch; Throwing Cricket Ball, D. Rumjahn, Three Legged Race, S. R. Cureem and E. Ellis, Obstacle Race, Gulam; Consolation, M. Suffad.

Three British Blue-jackets, named C. Harris, F. Tomlin, and A. Thompson, have had to pay rather dearly for a little sky-larking in which they indulged on Thursday night, the 15th inst. At the Magistracy on the 16th inst. a Chinaman who sells boots and shoes at 24, East Street, said the defendant's came into his shop and said they wanted some boots. The first defendant put a pair on, and when told that the price was \$1.30 he handed him 50 cents and ran away, having previously given his old shoes to the other defendants, who remained in the shop. The complainant followed him and saw him stopped by an Indian constable, who, after struggling with him, took him to the Police Station.—A boy employed by the complainant said that when the first defendant had run out of the shop he wanted to follow but the second and third defendants barred his way, the second defendant hitting him on the head with a shoe.—Indian constable 507 said that at about 8.45 on Thursday night he was on duty in Queen's Road Central when he saw the second defendant running, pursued by a Chinaman. He stopped him and in consequence of what the Chinaman told him he took him to the shop 24, East Street, where he saw the third defendant being held by a Chinaman. At the request of the people in the shop he took them both to the Police Station.—Indian constable 832 said he was on duty in Hollywood Road when he saw the first defendant running, followed by a Chinaman. He got hold of him and was knocked down. He at last succeeded in taking him to the Police Station. The man had no shoes on at the time.—The first defendant said he did not take the shoes out of the shop at all. He merely placed them on his feet and took them off again before he left the shop.—His Worship: Why did you run away, then?—The first defendant: I don't know. I was sky-larking as much as anything.—The first defendant was fined \$15, the second \$10, and the third \$5.

H.E. Major-General and Mrs. Gascoigne entertained a large party at Headquarters House on the night of the 19th inst.

Only two cases of communicable disease were notified as occurring in the colony during the week ending 17th March. These were both small-pox cases, in the city of Victoria, and there was one death.

Chan Su, alias Chan Po Shan, manager of the Chung Fung rice shop, 122, Bonham Strand, has been arrested on the charge of embezzling \$4,000. He was brought before Mr. Gompertz on the 16th inst. and remanded.

Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) went home on leave on the 21st inst. per the German mail steamer *Stuttgart*. Dr. J. A. Lawson will act as P.C.M.O. Mr. C. W. Duggan, Secretary of the Sanitary Board, goes home by the same boat.

Admiral Sir Edward H. Seymour, Commander-in-Chief of the British Squadron in the China Sea, has gone on a tour of personal inspection of the West River. His Excellency went to Canton in H.M.S. *Alacrity*, transshipping at Canton into the *Sandpiper*, on board of which he proceeds to Wuchow.

As P.C. George was going along Bowen Road on the 20th inst. he observed a Chinaman carrying a chopper and some tree branches. Suspecting that the man had been damaging Government property he gave chase. To get out of his way the Chinaman jumped over the parapet, and when the constable got near to him he found that he was dead.

Much gratification is felt by the members of the Victoria Recreation Club at the intelligence that an admirable site has been secured for the Club on the completion of the Reclamation. It is proposed to extend the Praya some 600 feet beyond the present Praya Wall, and the new Club site will be alongside the west of this extension near the spot now occupied by Murray Pier, which will be done away with.

At the Magistracy on the 16th inst. a Chinaman was committed for trial for tendering a bribe of \$5, to Mr. Ross, of the Public Works Department, on the 14th inst. Mr. Ross was about to prosecute the defendant for a breach of the Water Ordinance at his premises in Cochrane Street, and the defendant offered him \$5 with a view to inclining him to do an act contrary to his duty as a public servant.

At about 12.30 a.m. on the 20th inst. a fire broke out in the ground floor of 324, Queen's Road Central, which is used as a druggist's shop. The Fire Brigade appeared on the scene, and though the ground floor and its contents were destroyed the adjoining floors were prevented from igniting. Damage to the extent of about \$1,000 was done. The premises are insured in one of the offices represented by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha for \$2,000.

A Norwegian sailor appeared before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 16th inst. charged with creating a disturbance at the Rose, Shamrock and Thistle, Queen's Road Central, on Thursday night. Sergeant McSwayed was passing the house when he noticed a disturbance going on inside. Two soldiers had endeavoured to eject the defendant, who had wanting to fight, and the man had taken refuge behind the bar. The landlady (Mrs. Krater) said she did not wish to give the man into custody, but changed her mind when the Sergeant informed her that if she did not charge him he would take proceedings against her for allowing disorderly conduct on her premises. His Worship imposed a fine of \$5, and cautioned the landlady.

Among the passengers who arrived by the *Chalydra* on the 20th inst. were Mr. Sid Black the champion "trick" bicycle rider, and Mr. L. Jenkins, who are to give an exhibition of trick riding and bicycle polo at Hongkong. They hope to open on Saturday afternoon, when they should be sure of a big audience. Mr. Sid Black's entertainment, which lasts generally about an hour and twenty minutes, will be quite a novelty here, and his riding and polo together have been creating quite a sensation in the East. With Mr. Jenkins he has been making a tour of the world, spending no less than five months in India and Ceylon. He was unfortunate enough to lose one of his companions at Calcutta, through small-pox. After leaving Hongkong the riders go through America to fulfill an engagement at the Alhambra, London, in October. No one should miss this unique entertainment.

The Indian watchman (Dawan Alli) at the Lee On Sugar Refinery died suddenly on Monday, at the age of 68 years.

The charge against Chan Po San, a partner in the Cheung Fung Rice ship *Bonham Strand*, was further enquired into at the Magistracy on Thursday afternoon and the case was again adjourned. The prisoner is charged with embezzling \$3,609. Mr. Reece appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Robinson for the defence.

Mr. Marsh, the well-known baritone singer, now on a visit to Hongkong, will sing a solo from *The Messiah*, at the morning service in St. John's Cathedral on Sunday next. Mr. Marsh was latterly the leading baritone of the Carl Rosa Opera company. He will also sing at Mr. Ward's Organ Recital, which takes place at the Cathedral on Monday next at 5.30 p.m.

At the Magistracy on the 22nd inst. a Chinaman was charged, with stealing a box containing money and clothing to the value of \$2,000 from a boarding house at 46, Praya. At about six o'clock on Wednesday night the owner found the box had been taken away. The cook said the prisoner had fetched it, saying it was his. On the prisoner's house being searched by the police the box was found there. The prisoner said he seized the box for a debt. The case was adjourned.

The Stamp Revenue of Hongkong for the month of February amounts to \$31,330.74, showing a net decrease of \$4,617.24 on the collection in February, 1899. But as the revenue from Probate or Letters of Administration was only \$1,327 against \$12,254 last year, the return really shows a healthy expansion, best illustrated by the sale of Adhesive Stamps, which amounted to \$4,170 against \$2,162 in 1899. Other items which indicate the course of trade, Bills of Exchange, Bills of Lading and Policies of Insurance have slightly increased.

At the Commandant's parade in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps several of the officers and men who hail from the Emerald Isle observed St. Patrick's Day by wearing a sprig of Shamrock in their helmets. There seems to be an impression that this is a concession granted only to Irish Regiments. This, however, is a mistaken idea, as the following passage from the Corps Orders for this week will show:—Notification.—The following extract from Garrison Orders, dated 15th March, 1900, is published for general information. No. 8.—Her Majesty orders that on St. Patrick's Day all ranks in Irish Regiments wear as a distinction a sprig of shamrock in their head dress, also that all Irishmen, whether serving in Irish Regiments or not, be allowed to do so. Authority W. O. Telegram, dated 13th instant. The General Officer Commanding directs compliance with this order.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—The upward tendency continues, market being good. Quotations for Formosa are \$91.50 to \$92.00; sales 280 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—The prices are further declining, market being weak. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.95 to \$8.00	pel.
do. " 2, White...	7.25 to 7.30	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.45 to 5.50	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.25 to 5.30	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	8.00 to 8.05	"
do. " 1, White...	7.35 to 7.40	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.35 to 5.40	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.20 to 5.25	"
Foochow Sugar Candy...	11.80 to 11.85	"
Shekloong	9.80 to 9.85	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Nestor*, sailed on the 12th March. For Liverpool:—5,701 bales hemp, 80 bales canes, 18 cases ginger, and 21 packages sundries.

Per steamer *Queen Eleanor*, sailed on the 21st February. For New York:—4,510 rolls matting, 4,465 packages fire-crackers, 2,053 packages merchandise, 1,000 cases cassia, 687 bales hemp, 600 packages cassia buds, 230 packages joss sticks, 158 packages fans, 146

packages blackwoodware, 100 bales waste silk, 100 cases ginger, 67 cases Chinaware, 50 cases cumquats, 10 cases cassia oil, and 10 cases sundries.

Per steamer *Sarpedon*, sailed on the 9th March. For London:—420 boxes tea (8,820 lbs. So., caper, 130 boxes tea 2,730 lbs. Congou), 5,627 bales hemp, 50 bales canes, 130 bales feathers, 877 rolls matting, 550 cases preserves, 153 cases Chinaware, 51 cases blackwoodware, 19 cases cigars, 10 cases essential oil, 5 cases fans, 349 packages shell, and 33 packages sundries. For London option Manchester:—250 bales waste silks. For Glasgow:—44 packages blackwoodware and 5 cases sundries. For London option Hamburg:—100 bales Chinaware. For Hamburg:—3 cases shells. For New York:—50 boxes cassia oil.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 17th March. For London:—3 cases cigars from Manila, 12 bales feathers from Foochow, and 70 4-chests tea. For London option Manchester:—200 cases waste silk, 3 cases silks, 12 cases private effects, 1 case screens, 18 cases charts and books, and 3 packages China grass. For Marseilles:—357 bales raw silk and 1 case silks. For Lyons:—270 bales raw silk.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—Malwa.—A limited business has been done during the week at \$940 for New, and \$950 for old drug.

Bengal.—The market remained flat and prices receded to \$1,025 for Patna, \$1,045 for Old Benares and \$1,025 for New Benares, without resulting in any business.

Persian.—Best kind is enquired after at \$850, ordinary quality is nominally quoted at \$625.

To-day's stocks are:—

Malwa.....	830 chests.
Persian	1,800 "
Patna	479 "
Benares	86 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD
899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 17	1045	—	1040	1065	940	980
Mar. 19	1045	—	1040	1065	940	980
Mar. 20	1045	—	1040	1060	940	970
Mar. 21	1045	—	1040	1060	940	970
Mar. 22	1025	—	1025	1045	940	970
Mar. 23	1025	—	1025	1015	940	950

COALS.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—Sales, Cardiff coal ex ship at \$22½ and Godown at \$24. In Japanese small sales at \$7 to \$8. Quotations are:—

Cardiff.....	\$23 ex ship
Australian...	12.25 to 12.50—ex godown, steady
Milki Lump }	8.00 to 9.00 nominal
and Small }	
Meji Lump ...	6.50 to 8.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double }	12.00 to — ex godown
screened	
Hongay Lump	8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust...	5.50 to — "
Briquettes	14.00 to — ex godown

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—There is no market and the prices are further declining. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to 2.85
" Round, Good quality	3.05 to 3.10
" Long	3.25 to 3.30
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	3.05 to 3.10
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.30 to 3.35
" White	2.75 to 2.80
" Fine Cargo.....	4.10 to 4.15

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—1,180 bales No. 10 at \$93 to \$102, 781 bales No. 12 at \$94 to \$99.50, 450 bales No. 12 at \$100 to \$108, 750 bales No. 20 at \$109 to \$117. White Shirtings.—2,500 pieces 6 at \$5.40, 500 pieces X 7 at \$5.27½. T. Cloths.—1,020 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. 9 Boys at \$3.55, 300 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. at \$3.15. No. 23 Yarn.—50 bales Yellow Lion at \$1.45.

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$	86.00 to \$116.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,		114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24,		116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32,		129.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42,		147.00 to 154.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.		2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.		2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs.		2.95 to 3.80
9 to 10 lbs.		3.90 to 4.85
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.		2.75 to 2.95
58 to 60 " ..		3.25 to 3.95
64 to 66 " ..		4.25 to 5.00
Fine		5.20 to 8.00
Book-folds.		4.55 to 6.45
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...		0.80 to 1.60
T. Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.		1.85 to 2.00
7 lbs. (32 ") ..		2.10 to 2.80
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.		2.00 to 2.20
7 lbs. (32 ") ..		2.55 to 2.90
8 to 8 4 oz., (36 in.) ..		2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.		4.30 to 7.20

FANCY COTTONS—		per piece
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. }		1.75 to 7.20
Brocades—Dyed		4.20 to 5.70
		per yard
Chintzes—Assorted		0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.		0.26 to 0.45
Velvetens—18 in.		0.23½ to 0.28
		per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..		0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—		per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.		1.00 to 1.75
German		— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.		1.55 to 1.75
		per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet		6.80 to 10.40
Assorted		6.90 to 10.50
Camlets—Assorted		13.50 to 33.00
Lastings 30 yds., 3 inches, Assorted }		10.50 to 23.00
Orleans—Plain		8.50 to 10.00
		per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.		4.20 to 16.00

METALS—		per picul
Iron—Nail Rod		6.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) ..		6.60 to —
Swedish Bar		8.50 to —
Small Round Rod		7.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.		8.00 to —
Wire 15/25		10.25 to —
Old Wire Rope		3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..		10.50 to —
Australian		10.50 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.		42.50 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.		42.50 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.		42.50 to —
New Chop, 14/20 oz.		42.75 to —
Composition Nails		65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs		40.00 to —
Tin		85.00 to —
		per box
Tin-Plates		8.70 to —
		per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ¾		7.50 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	175.00 to —
Window Glass	6.25 to —
Kerosene Oil	2.91 to —

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 22nd March

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	111½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	200½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146

ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3¼ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2¼ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2½ % pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2½ % pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tael	52.85

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—The market has been quieter during the week and there are no transactions of any importance to report. Rates however have ruled fairly steady, and in many instances show a rise on last weeks quotations.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai's small sales have been effected at 320 and 318 per cent. prem. Market closing quiet at 318 per cent. prem. Nationals small lots have changed hands at quotation.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found buyers at \$52 5/8 and \$54 closing steady at the last rate. Unions have improved to \$235 with sales. Cantons and Straits continue neglected at quotations and without business. Yangtszes have found buyers at \$128 and North Chinas at \$170.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires remain dull with a small business at \$300, sellers at \$300 ruling the market at time of closing. China Fires have changed hands in small lots at \$80.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao, after sales at \$28½, \$29 and \$29½, have improved to \$30 with small sales at the last rate, market closing steady. Indo Chinas have been negotiated in unimportant lots at \$91, and Douglas at \$51, the latter closing with sellers. China Mutuals are obtainable at the reduced rate of \$117 no sales to report. China Mutuals are still enquired for, but unprocurable at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have remained quite neglected and in the absence of sales are difficult to quote; sellers at \$136 and probable buyers at \$132 is as close a quotation as is possible in the present state of the market. The report of this Company recently published recommends a dividend of \$5 per share from Equalisation fund. The working for the six months ending 30th June shows a loss of \$38,099.03 which amount the general agents themselves pass to the credit of Profit and Loss account for the benefit of the shareholders. Luzons continue neglected and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have changed hands at \$7.75, \$7.85, and \$8, closing steady at the last rate. Charbonnages unchanged and without business. Queens Mines have changed hands at 27 cent. and close at 25 cent. Jebebus have ruled weaker with sales at \$13½ and \$12½ closing at \$12½. Raubs continue quiet, with no buyers or business at quotations. Olivers and Great Easterns have changed hands in small lots at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks in the early part of the week changed hands at \$495, \$500 and \$505; later a small demand setting in for settlement purposes the rate suddenly jumped to \$515. At time of closing shares are obtainable at the last rate. Kowloon Wharfs have been placed at \$83, and \$83½ and it is reported at \$84. The market closing steady at \$83. Wanchais are enquired for at quotation without bringing any shares on the market.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands show a further improvement with sales at \$126½ and \$127 after a fair number had changed hands at \$126. Market closing with sellers at \$127. Hotels have been negotiated at

\$127, \$127½ and \$128, closing steady at \$127. West Points after further sales at \$51 and \$51½ suddenly got weaker and shares changed hands at \$50 5/8 and \$48. Market closing steady at \$49. Humphreys have been placed at \$9.50 and \$9.60, closing steady at the latter rate. Kowloon Lands unchanged and without business.

COTTONS.—Hongkong Cottons have changed hands at \$36½ and close with sellers at that rate. In the absence of local business quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been placed at \$30 and \$29½ closing with buyers at the latter rate. Watsons have found buyers at \$16½ but close with sellers. Borneos have improved to \$17½. Ices have changed hands at \$163. Electrics at \$12½ and Watkins at \$10.77 ex div.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	318 p. ct. prem. = [\$522½]
China & Japan, ordy	£4	£1, buyers
Do. deferred	£1	£5 6s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
Found. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$16
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 40.
China Sugar	\$100	\$136, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 73.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 71.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 400.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57.
Hongkong	\$100	\$36½, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$6, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$29½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$59 ex div.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$16½, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$127.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$163, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$33, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$32½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	515 p. ct. prem. = [\$768½]
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$130, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$80, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$54.
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300.
North-China	\$25	Tls. 170.
Straits	\$20	\$1.
Union	\$50	\$232½, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$128, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$127, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.60, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$26, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$49, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$350 [Shares]
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	80 cts., sellers, New
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts., sellers
Jebebu	\$3	\$12.50.
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	22½ cts.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$5½, sellers
Do. B.	\$4½	\$4.80.
Punjom	\$6	\$8, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.40, buyers
Rauls	15s. 10d.	\$60.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$20½, sales & sellers.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$117, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£10.10, ex d., bys.
China Ordinary	£10	£10.10, ex d., bys.
Do.	£5	£5, ex d., bys.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$51, sellers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$30, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$91, sellers
Shell Transport and	£100	£230, buyers
Trading Co.		
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$18½, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2	\$6, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$11, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$47, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10½, ex d., sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16½, sales & sellers.

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Glaucus* (str.), *Parramatta* (str.), *Java* (str.), *Massilia* (str.), *Calchas* (str.), *Orestes* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.), *Parramatta* (str.), *Massilia* (str.), *Sado Maru* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Konig Albert* (str.).
 For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Saxonia* (str.), *Heidelberg* (str.), *Sibiria* (str.).
 For VICTORIA, B.C.—*Olympia* (str.), *Kinshiu Maru* (str.).
 For SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—*Chelydra* (str.).
 For VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—*Empress of China* (str.).
 For PORTLAND, O.—*Braemar* (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of R. de Janeiro* (str.), *Coptic* (str.), *America Maru* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Pathan* (str.), *Astoria* (str.), *Looshtaken* (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Fulami Maru* (str.), *Chinglu* (str.).
 For BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Hioshima Maru* (str.).
 For SINGAPORE, SAMARANG, AND SOERABAYA.—*Shantung* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March—

ARRIVALS.

16, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 17, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 17, China, German str., from Java.
 17, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 17, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Ayr, German str., from Kutchinotzu.
 18, Calchas, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Devawongee, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 18, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 18, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 18, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 18, Alacritty, British des. ves., from Canton.
 18, Szechuen, British str., from Canton.
 18, Mobile Bay, British bark, from Hongay.
 18, Jason, British str., from Liverpool.
 19, Pronto, German str., from Manila.
 19, Undaunted, British cr., from Amoy.
 19, Cathay, Danish str., from Mororan.
 19, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, Hainan, German str., from Manila.
 19, Stuttgart, German str., from Yokohama.
 20, City of Dublin, British str., from Tacoma.
 20, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 20, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 20, Savoia, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
 20, Deuterios, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Benledi, British str., from London.
 20, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
 20, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 20, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Canton, British str., from Canton.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 21, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 21, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 21, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
 21, Sibiria, German str., from Hamburg.
 21, Vale of Doon, British bark, from Rajang.
 21, Bellerophon, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 21, Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
 21, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
 21, Dirigo, Amr. ship, from New York.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 22, Kwangping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 22, Leeyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 22, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
 22, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 22, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 22, Newark, Amr. cr., from Port of Vigan.
 22, Bonaventure, British cr., from Wosung.
 22, Benvorlich, British str., from Rangoon.
 22, City of London, British str., from Saigon.
 22, St. Regulus, British str., from Japan.
 22, Taicheong, German str., from Saigon.
 23, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
 23, Weimar, German str., from Hamburg.
 23, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 23, Tientsin, British str., from Bombay.
 23, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.

March—DEPARTURES.

- 17, *Marsilia*, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, *Coromandel*, British str., for Europe.
 17, *Algoa*, British str., for San Francisco.
 17, *Yangtze*, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, *Pakhoi*, British str., for Amoy.
 17, *Cheang H. Kian*, British str., for Amoy.
 17, *Benvenue*, British str., for Saigon.
 17, *Rohilla*, British str., for Yokohama.
 17, *Charterhouse*, British str., for Amoy.
 17, *Goodwin*, British str., for Tacoma.
 17, *Tamba Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 17, *Isaac Reid*, Amr. ship, for Puget Sound.
 17, *Kersaint*, French gunboat, for Saigon.
 18, *Haiman*, British str., for Keelung.
 18, *Melpomene*, Austrian str., for Amoy.
 18, *Siam*, British str., for Swatow.
 18, *Kweiyang*, British str., for Swatow.
 18, *Victoria*, British str., for Whampoa.
 18, *Hanoi*, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, *Anigo*, German str., for Saigon.
 18, *Maiduzru Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 18, *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.
 18, *Macduff*, British str., for Saigon.
 18, *Taksang*, British str., for Bangkok.
 19, *Hating*, French str., for Hoihow.
 20, *Nippon Maru*, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
 20, *Tukushi*, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 20, *Apenrade*, German str., for Haiphong.
 20, *Haiching*, British str., for Swatow.
 20, *Arratoon Apear*, British str., for Calcutta.
 21, *Stuttgart*, German str., for Europe.
 21, *Szechuen*, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, *Sullberg*, German str., for Chefoo.
 21, *Cañton*, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, *Formosa*, British str., for Swatow.
 21, *Hongkong*, French str., for Hoihow.
 21, *Hailan*, French str., for Pakhoi.
 21, *Mongkut*, British str., for Bangkok.
 21, *Diamante*, British str., for Manila.
 21, *Calchas*, British str., for London.
 21, *Bisagno*, Italian str., for Bombay.
 22, *Queen Adelaide*, British str., for Moji.
 22, *Savoia*, German str., for Hamburg.
 22, *Clara*, German str., for Hoihow.
 22, *Benledi*, British str., for Nagasaki.
 22, *Ayr*, British str., for Moji.
 22, *M. Valerie*, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
 22, *Liguria*, Italian cr., for Singapore.
 22, *Victorian*, British battleship, for Practice.
 22, *Undaunted*, British cr., for Practice.
 22, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 22, *Berlin*, American ship, for Seattle.
 22, *Pronto*, German str., for Chefoo.
 22, *Sungkiang*, British str., for Manila.
 22, *Devawongse*, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, *Benvorlich*, British str., for Yokohama.
 22, *Chowtai*, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, *Siberia*, German str., for Yokohama.
 23, *Hermes*, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 23, *Leeyuen*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23, *Kong Beng*, British str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Haiman*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Dunne and child, Miss Alves, Mr. Marshall, Master Mackay, Messrs. Go Yu Sam and Tsan Kwang Liang.
 Per *Urano*, from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. G. Charles.
 Per *Hating*, from Haiphong, &c., Mr. Binder Rosnet.
 Per *Tamba Maru*, from Singapore, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. A. Humphreys and 2 children, Miss F. Brauning, Mr. A. Marsh, Capt. P. Dauncey, Mr. and Mrs. W. Barkers, Mr. G. Kinghorn, Mr. and Mrs. Maloney, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. W. Allen and 2 children.
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 Per *Lingmoon*, from Shanghai, Captain J. Wittmus, Mr. E. O. Brownlow and 155 Chinese.
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 Per *Chelydra*, from Calcutta, Messrs. Brown and Bruce.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. Arthur G. Cohn and H. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Follis, Mrs. T. Underwood and son, Mrs. Bishop and family, Mrs. S. Norman, Messrs. E. E. Coats, B. K. McMorris, O. N. Anderson, J. Davis and Paul Nebeling.

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